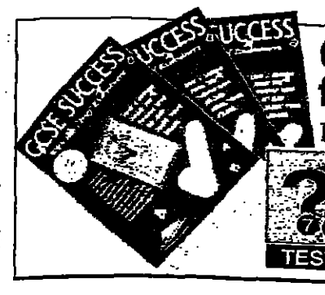
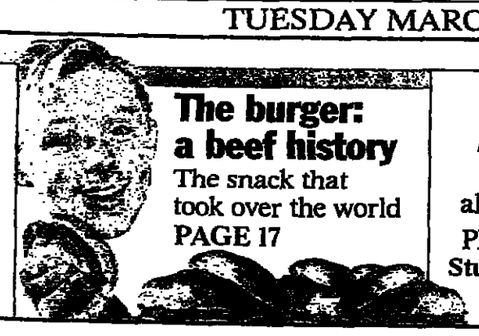
THE TIMES

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EU beef blockade of Britain

Protest by Major as Brussels claims right to order world ban

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

THE European Union last night imposed a worldwide ban on British beef exports after the Government held back from new measures — including the mass slaughter of cattle — to reassure the country and the Continent.

In a move that provoked fury and disbelief in Westminster the Commission claimed that it had the legal powers to order a ban involving third countries. Senior British officials in Brussels said there were serious doubts over whether the Commission had such a right although Britain had ceded some trading rights.

An angry John Major telephoned Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, to protest. Mr Santer told him that an advisory committee will be reconvened today so that British experts could argue the case for the prohibition to be lifted.

Explaining the EU action, Franz Fischler, the Agricultural Commissioner, said: "The aim is to ring-fence the problem inside the UK and help consumers recover confidence in the beef market."

British officials were aghast that the Commission and the council of veterinary officials had gone further than almost all demands by imposing bans on all imports into the EU and British exports elsewhere of live cattle, beef products and by-products in cosmetics.

The ban is open-ended and could be lifted only when Britain could convince the Commission that there was no further threat. Any compensation would depend on Britain's ability to satisfy demands for evidence that the BSE problem was being handled correctly.

An outraged official said: "There was not a shred of scientific evidence advanced in the veterinary committee today." The Brussels decision was "unscientific, hasty, ill-prepared and disproportionate". He noted that the Commission was in a great rush to quarantine British beef but was taking a strict view on compensation.

After a weekend of intense investigation by the Government's expert scientific committee, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, told the Commons that children were no more likely than adults to catch the human form of mad cow disease.

And Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, while announcing the acceptance of minor new recommendations, stopped short of announcing a slaughter policy and said only that he was ready to come forward with further measures if they were justified.

The Government's decision to try to tough out the crisis without further drastic measures came at a Cabinet committee chaired by the Prime Minister in which Mr Hogg found little support for his multi-billion pound plan to order the slaughter of all cattle aged more than 30 months.

With Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, taking a tough Treasury line, and indications to the Government overnight that the EU would not be swift in coming forward with compensation assistance, one minister after another recommended that the Government should not go further than the recommendations of its scientific committee. Ministers fear that a massive compensation payout could knock their economic policy off course.

They had had a flood of representations from MPs in farming constituencies warning that mass slaughter policy was a panic reaciton and more than was required.

Mr Hogg had suggested the slaughter of some 4.5 million older cattle on Sunday partly because he fully expected the expert committee to recommend such a move. But even on learning that the committee had not made such a proposal he was ready to propose the policy.

According to informed sources he was given short shrift. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, is among those understood to have warned that the Government should not be seen to panic in the face of what he called media hysteria.

Ministerial sources believe that a slaughter policy could yet be forced on Britain if the European Union makes it a condition of any help for compensation to beef farmers. Some officials believe that such a decision could come tomorrow.

The Cabinet committee discussed applying for European funds to support the beef market but it is clear that Britain will have to wait before the state of the beef market becomes clearer.

The news that children are not likely to be more at risk than adults was the first boost for the beef industry since it was disclosed last week that there was a possible link between BSE and a new strain of CJD.

Mr Dorrell told MPs: "If human infection with the BSE agent occurs, infants and children are not likely to be more susceptible to that infection than are adults."

Mr Dorrell said there was now "clearly no reason for the Government to advise local education authorities to re-

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"Hang on, we can't eat him. He's British"



MICHEL SPINGLER/AP

A British lorry carrying beef is stopped and turned back at Calais yesterday. In Brittany 151 cattle were destroyed after the discovery of BSE. Page 8

Two new cases of CJD suspected

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS disclosed yesterday that two more patients may be infected with the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which has been linked to BSE in cattle.

The patients, aged 36 and 42, are both still alive. Ten other confirmed cases were announced last week.

Professor John Pattison chairman of Seac (the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee), yesterday also disclosed the ages of the earlier ten cases. The patients range in age from 18 to 41. Three are 29 and three are 30 or 31. Assuming a ten-year incubation period, this means that more than half were in their teens or younger when they first became infected.

Professor Pattison told a press conference that the latest two cases were "in the age category under investigation" but that confirmation was still awaited. In one case a biopsy had proved negative, but that did not rule out the possibility that the patient was suffering from the new strain, he said.

He added that his committee had deliberated for eight hours about the risks to children and had considered every aspect. The committee was joined by experts in paediatrics, gastro-enterology and infection and immunity, and had considered differences in the way protein was digested, the normal defences against infection, and the barrier protecting the gut in adults and children.

"We treated all questions with the utmost seriousness. We were determined no question should be left unexplored," he said.

There was no evidence that the cause of BSE was in red muscle meat, and no evidence in other encephalopathies, such as scrapie in sheep, that they were carried in the muscle. "It would surprise us enormously if BSE were the exception," he said. He added, however, that there were limits to the sensitivity of the tests for detecting the infection.

He said parents could not protect their children from every risk. All food could carry infection and could trigger allergic reactions or cause illness. "Stopping beef and eating something else does not go from a small risk to a zero risk," he said.

The Seac experts also concluded that pregnant women, patients in hospital and people suffering from conditions affecting the immune system were not likely to have increased susceptibility to infection by BSE.

At last night's news conference, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, made clear that he did not believe there was any reason for people to stop eating beef. He reaffirmed that both he and his children would continue to do so.

Referring to the committee's report, he said: "Since nothing in life is risk-free, I think there is no basis in this advice for anyone to remove beef from their family diet."

Pound hit by market jitters

The pound and British stocks and bonds suffered yesterday as investors reacted to the beef crisis.

Mr Douglas Hogg's statement that bans on beef were unjustified and his apparent decision to rule out a cull of herds did not appear to help sterling. Government bonds perked up after the Commons statements but it came too late to help the stock market. The FTSE index closed 25.1 points lower at 3,681.9.

Scots are left out of stamp squad

Scottish football was sidelined when it provided none of the five British players selected by public vote to appear on commemorative stamps for the European championship. Pat Crerand, the former Scottish international, said: "I think the voting should have been done by football people"..... Page 7

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Diane Modahl wins fight to clear name after ban

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN

DIANE MODAHL, the first British woman athlete to fail a drugs test, yesterday won a 19-month battle to clear her name. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decided here that the test that precipitated her suspension was not reliable.

The IAAF verdict was in accord with that of a British Athletic Federation (BAF) appeals panel which last July set aside Modahl's four-year ban. Though eligible from that date to return to competition, her future remained uncertain, pending an IAAF ruling.

"I am absolutely delighted," Modahl, 29, said from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she is training. "We have finally won this long battle."

It began in August 1994 when Modahl was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, as she was about to defend her 800m title. Four months later a BAF disciplinary hearing ruled that an offence had been committed.

She and her husband, Vicente, went to appeal and are now counting the cost of an expensive legal defence. They are suing the BAF for £480,000 over loss of earnings and legal and scientific fees.

Modahl said last night: "It has been a costly fight and not just in financial terms. The powerful organisations in control of sport can make or break you. I believe there were those who wanted to break me."



Modahl: £480,000 suit for loss of earnings

Pivotal to the case was the laboratory in Lisbon which carried out the test nine weeks before the games. The test showed an abnormally high testosterone reading, suggesting the steroid had been taken to boost performance, but the Modahls produced evidence to show that her urine sample had not been refrigerated and was therefore liable to deterioration. In a statement, the IAAF blamed the laboratory.

Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said: "We believe Diane does not have a course of action against us. It should fall on the IAAF to meet all fees incurred by both parties from last October when they did not accept the verdict of our appeals panel."

Drug test doubts, page 48

Ministers move to avert divorce revolt

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

MINISTERS moved last night to avert a crippling backbench rebellion over the Government's divorce law reforms, offering concessions to Conservative opponents.

As the Family Law Bill began its Commons passage, ministers made clear they were not adamant that the "cooling off" period must remain at 12 months. They accepted the House of Lord's change to the Bill so pensions are split at the time of divorce rather than at retirement.

They also said they would consider allowing MPs a conscience vote on tightening rules protecting spouses and children against particular hardship, either financial or otherwise, when the Bill returns next month.

Tory MPs have attacked the reforms for failing to offer sufficient protection to spouses in contested divorce cases, claiming they will be severely harmed by the abolition of the current five-year period.

Two former Cabinet ministers led Tory backbench protests over the Bill, which has been heavily criticised for allowing no-fault divorce after 12 months.

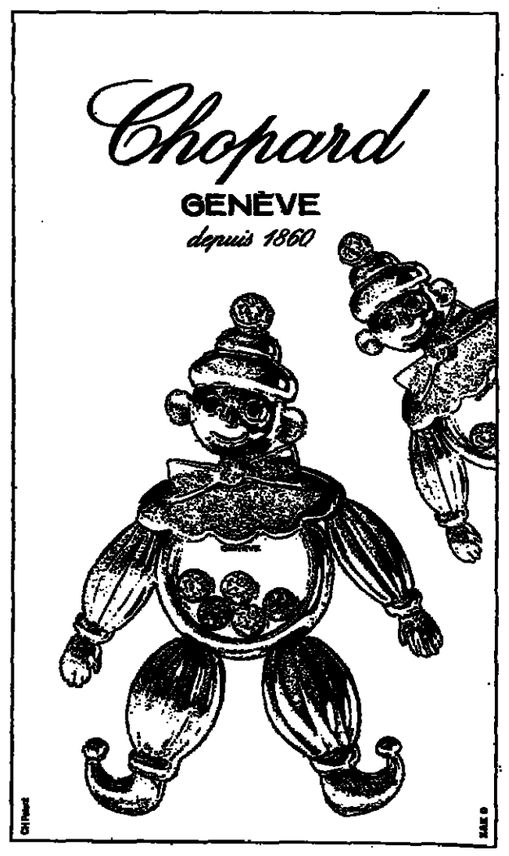
In a move welcomed by the Tory critics last night, Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said that although the Government favoured 12 months, it would help MPs to draft amendments extending the period. Several Tory MPs have called for two years, but ministers believe 18 months the maximum acceptable.

The Bill was drafted by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who is understood to be open minded about the minimum period, although it has been supported by children's welfare organisations.

Mr Freeman also announced that the Government will not attempt to overturn the Lords' amendment which

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Harman goes bananas in mad cow clash

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Politics can produce the paradoxical situation in which it is the craven who plunge boldly forward, and the brave who drag their feet. Watching MPs yesterday as Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, resisted advancing panic over BSE, and Labour's Harriet Harman went bananas, you could see it happening.

"Bananas" understates. Ms Harman threw everything she could find at the occasion. Public confidence had been "hanging by a thread". The thread had "collapsed". Public confidence (now unthreaded) was "draining away". Our confidence drained, collapsed and threadless, we were "swept into a crisis" while ministers, "fuelled by dogma", "dragged their feet" as the "nightmare scenario" loomed.

Ms Harman delivered her harangue in a breathless soprano which, hovering somewhere between Cassandra prophesying doom and a housewife throwing dinner at her husband, came to rest at a pitch reminiscent of the nanny near the end of her tether with a hyperactive child.

And Ms Harman achieved the impossible. In fact she achieved several impossible things. First, she roused Stephen Dorrell to anger, something that has never been seen before. Tories cheered. Dorrell is beautiful when he is angry. She also roused Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) to call her a "stupid cow", a remark he withdrew (at the outraged Speaker's command) while turning, smirking like a naughty boy, to his friends.

The second impossibility was to unite Dorrell and the right-wing Euro-renegade Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) in a moment of unprecedented togetherness. After nine years in Parliament, Mrs Gorman has found something to agree about with a Tory left-winger. So emotional had Dorrell now become that he was temporarily unable to pronounce encephalopathy, and for Dorrell that's very emotional. When he accused Harman of "ferreting around in the gutter for party advantage", doctors in the House prepared for Mr Dorrell's possible collapse.

The third impossibility was to produce in Labour a populist show so shameless as to embarrass even the Liberals. Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, counselled caution: Paul Tyler, their agriculture spokesman, warned against heedless panic. Delicious to see Liberals trapped between their rural voters and their urban ones!

Finally — and this we thought we'd never see — Harman has made a statesman of Douglas Hogg. Our terrier-like Agriculture Minister can bark with the best but, following an hysterical Harman and facing an unhinged Gavin Strang (his Labour Shadow) he opted for the couch-side tones of a consultant psychiatrist.

In vain. To represent an English constituency is to know that the British all suspect, deep down, that someone is trying to poison them. They suspect, too, that somewhere hidden lie countless files of official information too hot for the public to know. Finally, they suspect that all politicians are at all times lying, probably compulsively, either for the hell of it or because it is in their nature.

Couple these primal insecurities with the rage and frustration an electorate is bound to feel towards a Government approaching its eighteenth year in power, and advice to any British cow reading this sketch must be to enjoy each day as it comes. Similar advice may be offered to Tory MPs.

No divorces for a year once new law is passed

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will become a divorce-free zone for a year when the new divorce laws come into effect, Jonathan Evans, MP, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said yesterday that when the Family Law Bill becomes law, any new divorce would effectively be outlawed for one year.

The "ban" on new divorce comes about because under the reforms, couples will have to wait a minimum of 12 months, once they have lodged a petition, before being allowed to divorce.

The Law Society predicted yesterday that there was likely to be a rush by couples wanting to get divorced under the "quickie" procedure of the present law. This can be done in as little as four months if adultery or unreasonable behaviour is alleged.

Yesterday Mr Evans said in an interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "In the first year after this legislation comes in nobody will be able to get divorced. We'll have a situation where everybody will be required to go through the one-year period for reflection and consideration. I can confidently tell you that in that period of time there will not be any divorces."

There are about 150,000 divorces a year in Britain. The Family Law Bill, which came before the Commons for its second reading yesterday after a stormy passage in the Lords, will also scrap the notion of fault in divorce.

During the one-year "cooling-off" period — which some critics of the Bill want lengthened to 18 months — couples will have to agree arrangements for children and finances before they are granted the new divorce order (which replaces the two-stage decrees nisi and absolute).

"We're placing the emphasis on reconciliation. We're promoting mediation. We're ensuring that aspects in relation to finance, property and children are resolved before a divorce is granted and we're also beefing up the law to do with domestic violence," Mr Evans said.

The reforms are not likely to come in before 1998. They are expected to receive Royal Assent this summer and there will then be extensive pilot projects on the mediation schemes and the provision of information for divorcing couples.

The divorce-free year will not put divorce lawyers out of work, however. Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said that divorce lawyers would have plenty to do during the one-year period giving legal advice to couples sorting out their arrangements.

"There is no power in the Bill to abridge this period for exceptional circumstances such as terminal illness, although we have argued for one."

Whether couples sorted out their affairs through a mediator or not, they would need legal advice as well, he said. "This will remain central."



Together for at least a year under the new law

Ministers try to avert rebellion

Continued from page 1

defeated the Government on pension-splitting.

He told MPs legislation would be introduced "as soon as possible" after a consultation paper is published this summer. However, last night several Tories pressed for a more specific timetable, fearing legislation introduced next autumn might not complete its parliamentary passage before a general election.

As expected, Mr Freeman also said all Tories, including ministers, will have a "free vote" on no-fault divorce and the minimum period needed before a divorce is allowed.

John Patten, the former Education Secretary, said the Bill needed substantial redrafting. It abolished a couple's traditional duty to pledge themselves to each other for life and made marriages totally meaningless.

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Economic insecurity remains the Tories' bugbear

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

BY PETER RIDDELL

LABOUR yesterday raised the central political issue of economic insecurity — only to see it overshadowed by another instalment of the beef saga. But starting with the Harriet Harman row in January, via the Scott report, the headlines have been dominated by events, important in themselves, but secondary to the worries of most voters ahead of the next election.

Economic insecurity explains the absence of the "feel-good" factor and goes to the heart of anxieties over intensified global competition. This has become a central argument in America where protectionists of Right and Left have attacked international corporations. However, in Britain, the main party leaders accept that these pressures are neither going to disappear nor should they be resisted.

The Tory case is that economic growth will create social cohesion and reduce insecurity. Hence the reiteration that Britain is "the enterprise centre of Europe" and the attacks on "job-destroying" measures such as the minumum wage. But even if the Tories can convincingly show that they are best placed to make Britain competitive it would only partially deal with insecurity. Stephen Dorrell put the point well a few months ago: "the necessity to make a full-blooded commitment to a process of constant and quickening change creates a conflict for politicians when voters are yearning for a stability which they believe they have lost". His answer was to rebuild confidence in economic stability.

But that will not be enough to make change acceptable or to reduce the anxieties of these fearful of losing their jobs. Ministers are wary of drawing attention to the question of insecurity. Labour's decision to campaign on "downward mobility", ahead of next month's Staffordshire South East by-election and May's council elections can partly be seen as a counter to Tory claims about that the Government has achieved a stronger economy and rising living standards. But it also seeks to show that governments have a role, not by boosting demand but by helping to improve the workings of the supply side.

Tony Blair was at pains yesterday to say that Labour could not prevent people losing their jobs but could help them get their next job. Gordon Brown's proposals are based on the belief that training and education are the key dividing lines between those who prosper in a global economy and those who are left behind. This is similar to the analysis of Robert Reich, the US Labor Secretary, with whom Mr Brown has had frequent discussions, most recently last week.

Governments, it is argued, should aim at encouraging training through tax relief for people undertaking their own retraining in approved courses. Labour will this week produce a plan for individual learning accounts which would earn tax relief and would be portable. This would replace Labour's commitment to a compulsory training levy — despite opposition from trade union leaders yesterday.

Much of the costing is still unclear — but at least the plan addresses public fears about uncertain job prospects. These will not be answered by a few quarters of rising living standards, tax cuts and slogans about enterprise.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Instructor blamed for soldiers' deaths

An Army gunnery instructor was responsible for the death of two soldiers killed by a stray shell while watching an artillery demonstration, a court martial was told yesterday. Corporals Robert Hawksley and Martin Bailey of The Queen's Royal Lancers died during an exercise at Suffield in Canada in June 1994 run by Major Jonathan Ginder. Major Ginder, of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, denied two charges of manslaughter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Austin, for the prosecution, told the court martial at Bulford in Wiltshire that there appeared to be discrepancies in the guns' sights. Colonel Austin said it was Major Ginder's duty to guard against such discrepancies. The hearing continues.

Tourist killings denied

The man accused of murdering seven young backpackers, including two Britons, in Australia pleaded not guilty yesterday on the first day of a trial in Sydney that is expected to last up to six months. Ivan Milat, 51, a roadworker who has been in custody for nearly two years, also denied kidnapping British tourist Paul Onions, who comes from the Midlands.

MP faces reprimand

John Austin-Walker, the Labour MP who spoke at Sinn Fein's annual conference and attacked John Major's handling of the Irish peace process is to be reprimanded by Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip. Mr Austin-Walker, MP for Woolwich, has been asked for a transcript of his remarks when he praised Gerry Adams and said he disagreed with Labour's bi-partisan approach to Ulster.

Party loses £40,000

Police are investigating a former Labour parliamentary candidate over the apparent misappropriation of up to £40,000. David Hurst, 34, resigned last year as candidate for Bath after the disclosure that he had claimed unemployment benefit while working as an accountant for 50 local firms. Officials have now discovered money missing from the Bath party, of which Mr Hurst was treasurer.

Student hardship claim

One in three students misses lectures because they are working in part-time jobs to support themselves at university or college, according to the National Union of Students. A survey also disclosed that employment during term time causes one in five students to miss deadlines for coursework. A spokesman said: "Record levels of hardship are forcing students to sacrifice their studies."

Naval officer settles

A Royal Navy officer who collapsed and suffered brain damage while on a training course settled out of court with the Ministry of Defence for an undisclosed figure yesterday. Sub Lieutenant Simon Rowland, 29, of Newton Abbot, Dorset, was in a coma for 15 days after running run until he dropped from exhaustion at temperatures of 90F in the New Forest in 1989.

Pub spirited to Germany

A Victorian pub in Leeds is to be replicated 20 times across Germany. The idea stemmed from a visit by a delegation of German brewery chiefs to the Leeds-based brewers Joshua Tetley to set up an export market. They were shown around the Victoria Hotel in Great George Street and fell in love with it. The Germans hope to convert existing pubs or build the replicas from scratch over the next three years.

Duo enjoy hall of fame

A West Country musical duo who risked their homes to hire the Albert Hall for a night played three encores to a near sell-out crowd. Steve Knightley and Phil Beer, known as Show of Hands, spent £24,000 to hire the London venue on Sunday night but sold most of the 3,500 tickets. "It was an absolutely fantastic night," a spokeswoman said. They had covered their costs and raised £1,500 for charity.

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Beef ban

Continued from page 1

move beef from school menus". He repeated the scientists' advice that providing present controls were fully implemented, "any BSE-related risk from eating beef or beef products is likely to be extremely small".

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused ministers of "reckless disregard for public health" and blamed the "dogma" of deregulation for having swept the country into crisis. "Last week I said public confidence was hanging by a thread. Now it has collapsed."

The Consumers' Association — one of Britain's most influential independent watchdogs — maintained that the only way to avoid the risk of BSE was to stop eating beef altogether. It accused the Government of failing to reassure consumers over the possible dangers of eating beef and beef-derived products. "The Government's advice has done nothing to answer the key consumer concerns about beef," it said.

The Government's problems at home increased when fast food giant Burger King announced that it was banning British beef from its restaurants. The chain is following in the footsteps of McDonald's, Wimpy and Wendy's burger bars amid plummeting consumer confidence in the safety of home-produced beef. From Saturday all Burger King burgers would be made from non-British beef but British-made burgers would remain on the menu until then.

Mr Hogg told the Commons that consumer confidence was fragile but promised: "I shall monitor it with scrupulous care and I shall not hesitate to come before the House with further measures if it is clear that they are justified by the circumstances."

CSA pays £100 to innocent fathers

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE price of being wrongly labelled a cad by the Child Support Agency was set at £100 yesterday. Men who are sent maintenance claim forms for children they never fathered will be given financial compensation.

A part-time independent complaints examiner will be appointed at an annual cost of £1 million to cope with the 32,000 parents a year aggrieved by the agency's performance.

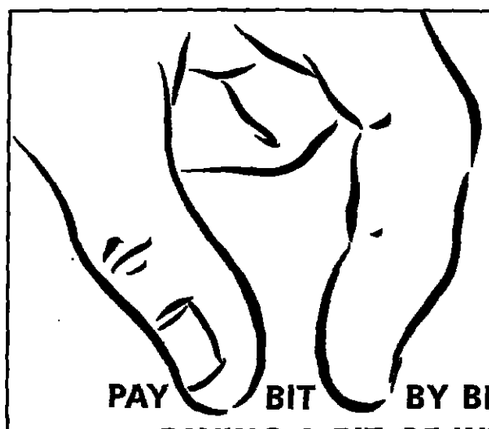
A compensation scheme is also being introduced for mothers whose maintenance is delayed by the CSA's bureaucratic slowness. This is unlikely to be extravagant as the planned budget runs only to £100,000 a year.

"It is really a matter of looking at each case individually. This is taxpayers' money," said Andrew Mitchell, a Social Security Minister.

Men claim their lives have been ruined by receiving a maintenance inquiry form identifying them as the father of a stranger's child. Mr Mitchell said the £100 was compensation for "upset and inconvenience".

A man cited in the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on the CSA a fortnight ago lost his girlfriend, had his birthday and Christmas ruined, cancelled a trip abroad and had to take time off work.

The CSA had sent him a form because his date of birth matched that of a man it was pursuing although his name was different. The agency sent him £3.20 compensation.



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'A man who robbed the rich to give to the poor is rather out of fashion these days'

Sheriff of Nottingham banishes Robin at last

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ROBIN HOOD is being retired by Nottingham's civic leaders because they think his swashbuckling image is out of date.

The Sheriff of Nottingham has joined forces with Tony Blair's new Labour Party to try to bury the legendary outlaw and champion of the poor. Four advertising agencies have been invited by Nottingham First, a consortium of businessmen supported by the Labour-controlled city council, to design a new symbol for the city that will have no link to the redistribution of wealth.

The Labour council believes that Robin Hood and his Merry Men are the wrong image for a city at the cutting edge of the technological revolution.

Roy Greensmith, the Sheriff of Nottingham, said: "The legend of Robin Hood is of a person with a soul and a civic conscience, a man who robbed the rich to give to the poor. That is rather out of fashion these days."

The Sheriff, a Labour councillor who wears a gold-braid replica of a 12th-century outfit, complete with bejewelled sword, said: "Torvill and Dean, Nottingham Forest and Brian Clough are more popular here."

Mary Chamberlain, the secretary of the Robin Hood Society, was appalled. "They have gone crazy. Robin Hood is Nottingham. He is one the best-known figures in world history."

Simon Wilkinson, chief executive of Nottingham First, whose members include lawyers and bankers, was unapologetic. He said: "As a child I never liked Robin Hood. I am afraid I always preferred the Sheriff of Nottingham. Men in doublets, leotards and tights simply do not project the right image for a modern and vibrant city. Nottingham is the headquarters of Boots, you know."



They rode through the glen: clockwise from top left, Douglas Fairbanks senior, Kevin Costner, Disney's Robin Hood fox and Richard Greene

Bob White, director of corporate affairs at the city council, says the outlaw presents a poor impression of the city. "Research has shown it to be a lightweight image," he said. "When we're trying to sell the city, say to a major electrical company from Germany, if they think of Robin Hood when they think of Nottingham they might get the wrong impression."

Each year 1.5 million tourists converge on Nottingham, many in pursuit of the legendary figure whose grave has never been found. Nottingham Castle dominates the coat of arms of the city, which began as a Saxon settlement. *Vivit Post Funera Virtus* (virtue outlives death) is the city's motto. Images of Robin Hood adorn many shop windows.

The historical status of Robin of Loxley, a humble miller's son, is a matter of continuing academic argument. Scholars are prepared to argue that he was a yeoman turned poacher who, abused by the Sheriff of Nottingham, defied royal authority and robbed the rich to give to the poor.

He is thought to have lived in the late 12th or early 13th century and was a fearless opponent of the Sheriff, his evil sidekick Guy of Gisburn and Prince John. Maid Marion was invented several centuries later. The tale was embroidered in later years when the Victorians turned Robin into a nobleman, the Earl of Huntingdon, to make him a more respectable hero.

Ian Walker, managing director of the Tales of Robin Hood, one of many tourist attractions built around the legends, said: "I employ 45 people who owe their job to Robin Hood. Nobody would even have heard of Nottingham if it were not for him."

Errol Flynn, Sean Connery, Kevin Costner, Richard Greene, Mel Brooks and even John Cleese have all taken up the hero's bow and arrow. The 800-year Major Oak, the tree in Sherwood in which the outlaws were said to have hidden from the Sheriff, is a shrine for disciples.

Sir James Holt, Professor of Medieval History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, the country's leading authority on Robin Hood, said: "There is great international interest in Robin Hood. How can they say now that he is out of date? He has been dead for 700 years."

For centuries ballads, poems, operas, plays, films and television have transmitted the essentials of the myth. Robin is recast for each generation. Kevin Costner's 1991 film, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, was one of the biggest box office successes for years. A Robin Hood exhibition, which will be shipped around the world, opens at the University of Oldenburg in Germany later this year.

They may be unsure about the potency of the symbol in Nottingham but Americans have no doubt about the lure of Sherwood Forest. Terry Baker, from Rochester, New York, said in Nottingham yesterday: "The main reason we came here was because of the link-up between Robin Hood, Nottingham Castle and Sherwood Forest. He is a big name in the States where everybody's heard of him."



Yesterday's man: the statue of Robin Hood at the foot of Nottingham Castle

Leading article, page 19

£78m for opera is attacked in court

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Arts Council's decision to award £78 million of National Lottery cash to the Royal Opera House in London for redevelopment was branded "unlawful and intolerable" in the High Court yesterday.

In an action brought by Jo Weir, chairman of the Covent Garden Community Association, Leolin Price, QC, argued that the council agreed to fund a redevelopment on land which it jointly administrates and manages.

"The conflict between the council's statutory responsibility for choosing between competing applicants for lottery money and its interest in this particular intended distribution is intolerable," he said.

Judge Tucker deferred the application for a judicial review, the first legal challenge to a lottery award, until next month.

Jim Monahan, an architect representing the community association, said later: "We took the Arts Council to court over the incestuous relationship between them and the Royal Opera House." The association believed there was a conflict of interest in money being given to the Covent Garden Land Development, as the Arts Council was a joint trustee.

He added: "The judge has not given us leave, but he hasn't thrown the case out. He has deferred the case, which seems a very favourable decision."

If permission for a judicial review is granted, the legal dispute will go to a full hearing at a later date. It could dampen the hopes of Jeremy Isaacs, General Director of the opera house, that the last complications surrounding the project will be solved quickly and the £213 million project will be able to go ahead without delay.

Lord Bristol sells up in case Labour gets in

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND JOHN SHAW

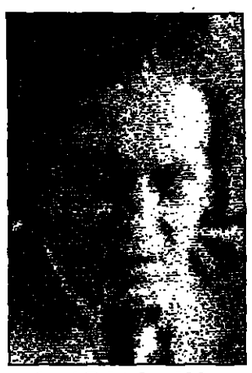
THE Marquess of Bristol said yesterday that the prospect of a Labour Government was a deciding factor in his decision to sell the contents of the private apartments at his family home, Ickworth.

Lord Bristol, 41, who has fought a long-running battle with drugs, is expected to raise more than £1 million from the sale of paintings and furniture from the east wing of Ickworth, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, which has been the family home since the 18th century.

Lord Bristol said that since the age of 16 he had been responsible for the house, which cost £350,000 a year to run, "and I have decided that enough has been expended on a building I do not own".

It had cost £7 million to maintain over the years and after talks with trustees the sale had been decided upon "in view of the political climate we are living in today and the climate we may have to live in tomorrow".

Asked if that involved the possibility of a Labour Government he said: "Yes. When the Labour Government was in power they discussed penal taxation and wealth taxes which quite frankly would be crippling for someone in my position. I think it is going to be very detrimental for the owners of country houses."



Lord Bristol: said he would miss the shooting

He said: "This is not a question of having to sell but of making a financial decision before it's too late. At my age I feel I want to have a lot less financial hassle but I will miss the shooting," he said.

He will now divide his time between a five-bedroom house in the grounds during the summer and a house he is building in the Bahamas. The move is being made on medical advice following recent bouts of pneumonia.

In a frank news conference at the house he said: "The move marks a new start in my life. I will feel a tremendous burden lifted from my shoulders when I shed this responsibility which has been round my neck for 20 years."

Ickworth passed to the nation in lieu of death duties in 1956. The family has lived in the east wing since the 1800s and it is currently on a 99-year lease from the National Trust. Lord Bristol, who served a ten-month jail sentence for heroin and cocaine abuse imposed in December 1993, took reporters on a tour of the house yesterday, spoke openly about his addiction and warned young people to stay away from drugs. "Don't ever experiment with drugs, otherwise they will change your life and take over you," he said. "Once you experiment the danger is that you become addicted."

His manner was in marked contrast to previous public appearances when he looked pale, withdrawn and wore sunglasses. Lord Bristol said he had been on a drug rehabilitation programme for 18 months and had just completed his probation. He said: "I have never felt as well as I do at the moment."

Lord Bristol inherited 4,000 acres and once boasted a fortune of £35 million. When he was sentenced for possessing drugs the court was told he had spent nearly £7 million in ten years on his addiction.

Oasis a mirage to His Honour

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A FORMER drummer with the band Oasis started a High Court battle yesterday over royalties, only to discover that the judge had never heard of the band.

Tony McCarroll, who was sacked last April, is suing Liam and Noel Gallagher, Paul Arthurs and Paul McGuigan for 20 per cent of the royalties for *Definitely Maybe*, the fastest selling debut album in British recording history. He is also claiming unpaid money for the follow-up disc, which sold five million copies.

But as the proceedings began yesterday Mr Justice Harman, 65, demonstrated once again that he is the scourge of all things that smack of popular culture.

The Old Etonian, who once memorably asked "who is Gazza?", revealed he is one of the few people who has not heard of the hell-raising band as famed for its performances off the stage as on.

At a preliminary High Court hearing Andrew Sutcliffe, QC, for Oasis, said: "I represent a band whom your Honour may have heard of, Oasis." Mr Justice Harman, whose interests include hunting, shooting, fishing and stalking, replied: "I certainly have not heard of the band. I don't listen to bands." When it was pointed out that the band's record company was Sony, Mr Harman said: "Now there is somebody I have heard of."

Mr McCarroll is now seeking unpaid royalties for the hit singles *Some Might Say* and *Whatever*, and two albums that include *What's the Story, Morning Glory?*

At last month's pop industry awards the band lived up to its stormy reputation when, having won the best album award for *What's The Story*, it sang an obscene version of a song by its deadly rivals Blur. Noel Gallagher, the songwriter, collecting the best band award, declared there were only seven people in the room who offered young people any hope: the group, its manager, and Tony Blair, who had handed out one of the awards.

Jonathan Rayner James, QC, for Mr McCarroll, said his client had only one source of income: Oasis.

Mr Justice Harman directed that the case against Oasis should be heard in May. But he first established that any money which could be awarded to Mr McCarroll would not be misused. He said: "It's not going to be put on a horse in the meantime, is it?"

Company director wins £140,000 in equality case

BY PETER FOSTER

A COMPANY director dismissed after she complained about being paid less than her male opposite number has won a £140,000 settlement from her former employers. The case was last night hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission as a triumph for the rights of women in executive jobs.

Christine Esplin, 48, a personnel director, was promoted to the board of a Sussex clothing retailer in 1993 at the same time as its male merchandising director. When she discovered her salary package of £42,500 with company car and pension benefits was less than his, she lodged an equal pay claim with an industrial tribunal.

Mrs Esplin told the company chairman of her actions, and about two weeks later she returned from holiday to find she had been dismissed. Mrs Esplin, who joined the company in 1987, then claimed she had been victimised because of the earlier pay dispute and, backed by the commission, she challenged the dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Brighton.

QS Familywear settled the dispute informally, offering Mrs Esplin £120,000 and £20,000 in enhanced pension contributions. Hilary Slater, the commission's principal legal officer, said the size of the settlement, the largest in the organisation's history, was encouraging: "This sort of money shows that women can now be properly compensated for the very real losses they suffer through discrimination."



Mrs Esplin won an out-of-courtsettlement

Until 1993 claims under the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act were capped at £11,000 but, after a European Court of Justice, ruling on a case involving South West Hampshire Health Authority, there are now no limits to compensation levels.

Lady Brittan, deputy chairwoman of the commission, said it had backed Mrs Esplin's case because of concerns over top women's pay: "At present, women directors only receive 72 per cent of male director pay," she said.

In a statement from QS Holdings Plc yesterday, the company said it continued to deny any allegations of sexual discrimination and unfair dismissal. The settlement, said the company, reflected the cost of the two-year notice period in Mrs Esplin's contract. An out-of-court settlement had been reached to avoid "further costs and use of valuable top management time".

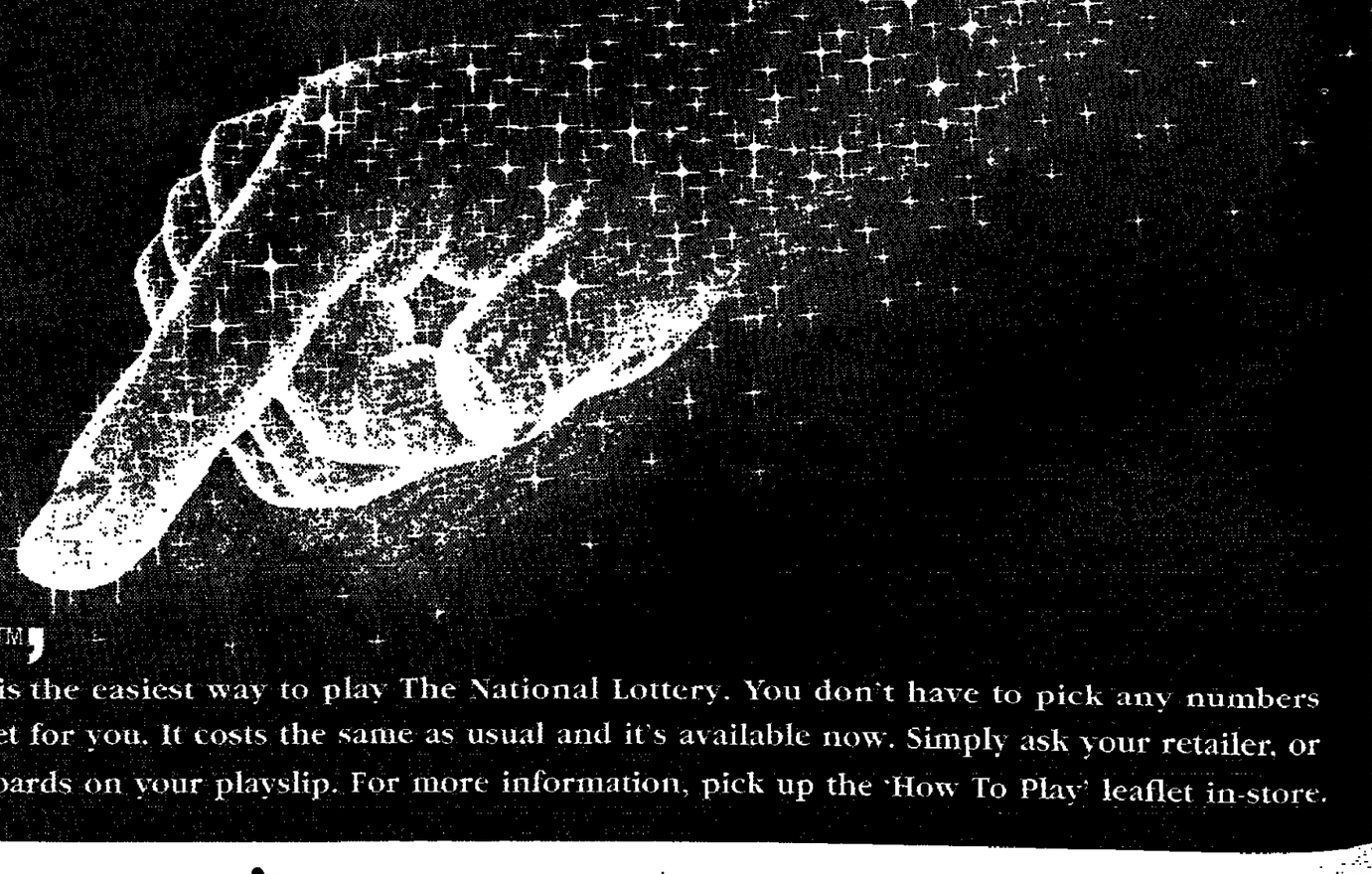
Mrs Esplin, of Hassocks, West Sussex, has been looking for another job since June. She said the money would come in very useful. "I have been doing some voluntary work in our village and it will give me some breathing space to continue with this while looking for work," she said.

She added that her efforts to find a job had been hampered by having to include the dismissal on her curriculum vitae. Following the settlement she will now have a reference from her former employers.

She said: "I have been working solidly for the last 25 years and I shall now take some time off to reflect. I may even move outside the retail industry even though I miss the cameraderie and responsibility of my old job."



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Paralysed rugby player sues referee and opponent for £1m

BY ADRIAN LEE

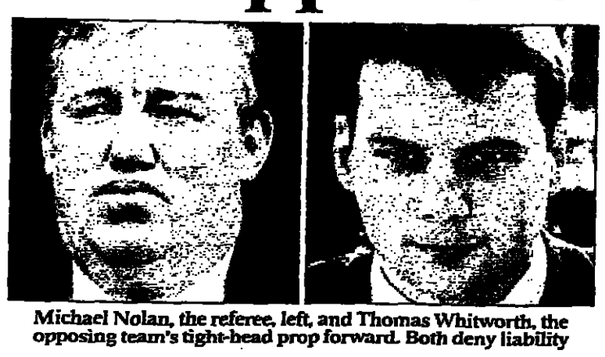
A YOUNG rugby player yesterday blamed a referee and an opponent for an accident that left him paralysed. Ben Smoldon, 21, is claiming more than £1 million damages from the two in the first case in the British courts of a sportsman suing a referee for negligence.

Mr Smoldon, who was 17 when his neck was broken, claims the opposing prop forward, Thomas Whitworth, broke the rules by helping to collapse the scrum and that Michael Nolan, the referee, should have acted earlier to prevent the accident. Both deny liability.

Graham Rowntree, an England front-row forward, and Peter Wheeler, a former international, are expected to give evidence in the High Court for the defendants, who are supported by the Rugby Football Union.

Mr Smoldon, who is paralysed from the shoulders down, was helped into court in a wheelchair by a carer who turned the pages of documents for him. He said he had not intended to play in the game because he had a county trial two days later, but turned out because his side, Sutton Coldfield Colts, was short of players.

His counsel, Peter Andrews, QC, told Mr Justice Curtis that Mr Smoldon, a hooker, suffered catastrophic injuries when the scrum collapsed.



Michael Nolan, the referee, left, and Thomas Whitworth, the opposing team's tight-head prop forward. Both deny liability

The court was told that the game against Burton upon Trent Colts, in October 1991, had been ill-tempered. It was alleged that the referee had allowed 25 previous scrum collapses to go unpunished. Two players had been sent off; several needed treatment for neck injuries and a touch judge had warned that someone would get hurt. But, Mr Andrews said, the referee had said that he could do nothing about it.

Mr Smoldon, the Sutton Coldfield captain, told the court he felt the breath knocked from his body in the final scrum, which had already collapsed and reformed twice. "I can remember on going down that I was leaning on my left hand side and that I felt a blow to my neck. I thought I was winded and blacked out momentarily."

His body was then forced backwards and he was left hanging on to a colleague before losing his grip. "I can remember falling down to the floor on my back. My legs felt numb." He had not walked since.

He said Mr Whitworth had previously played aggressively and there had been frequent wrestling between the two front rows, but the referee did not impose his authority, warn of the dangers or instruct the players on the rules.

Mr Smoldon said he had never before played in a game where the scrummage had collapsed so often. "I would say he [Whitworth] played a part in the collapsing of the scrummages." The game, played at Burton in Staffordshire, was abandoned ten minutes from time with the home side leading 17-10.

Mr Andrews said Mr Nolan "owed the players a duty of care" and should have been both vigilant and strict in enforcing the laws. "Unhappily, on this afternoon Mr Nolan did not measure up to the standard that one should and would expect from a competent referee. He failed to take proper steps to prevent the risk of serious injury."

He said Mr Whitworth was also negligent in failing to take the correct position for the scrum, which meant Mr Smoldon's body was not supported when the two packs of forwards locked together.

Questioned by Christopher Symons, QC, for Mr Whitworth, Mr Smoldon, from Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, conceded that his own side could have been responsible for some of the earlier scrummaging problems. Mr Symons said: "It was no more than an accident, wasn't it?"

The case continues.

DES JENSON



Ben Smoldon arriving at the court in his wheelchair yesterday

Officials covered by insurance

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALL match officials — referees, touch judges and even sponge men — are insured for public liability under a Rugby Football Union scheme which costs the individuals nothing.

Any club affiliated to the RFU is compelled to take out insurance against accidental death and disability, either through the RFU or by participating in a scheme offering equal benefits. Clubs are also encouraged to suggest to players the need for personal insurance.

Public liability was introduced for players and officials in the 1989-90 season and the indemnity limit was set at £1 million. In 1992-93, the RFU accepted a recommendation to increase the limit to £5 million but notes that "cover does not operate in respect of incidents arising out of a deliberate breach by insured person of RFU rules, directives, and regulations".

Payment for referees was confirmed last weekend, but will apply only to officials at the professional end of the game.

Biting wind and nipping corgis mark return of royals to Poland

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN WARSAW

THE Queen began a three-day state visit to Poland yesterday, the first by a reigning British monarch to a country which has not had a king of its own for 201 years.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, the Queen arrived in Warsaw wrapped in a fur coat against the sharp tail end of a central European winter. Watched by a large and animated crowd, she was greeted at the presidential palace by President Kwasniewski, who had ousted Lech Walesa from his country's top position in last November's elections.

The Queen's visit, in return for one made by Mr Walesa, then President, to London in 1991, is intended to underline support for Poland's return to democracy and to encourage the country's ambition to join Western institutions. This month's White Paper on Europe backed expansion of the European Union, particularly in Central Europe, but some diplomats are anxious to soft-pedal Poland's desire to join Nato while Russian elections are pending.

The Queen, however, showed no such equivocation when she told President Kwasniewski in a speech at a state banquet last night: "We strongly support the enlargement of the European Union and of Nato; we welcome your aspirations to join these institutions."

One of the Queen's first duties was a visit, added to her programme at the last minute, to lay a wreath at the grim marble memorial on the site of the Umschlagplatz in central Warsaw, where thousands of Polish Jews were loaded into railway wagons for their last journey to the Treblinka. The visit was arranged after members of the Jewish community in Britain had expressed surprise last week that the Queen would not be visiting Auschwitz or any other Holocaust memorial in Poland.

She laid another wreath at Warsaw's tomb of the unknown soldier, where she met Polish and British war veterans. More than 250,000 Polish servicemen fought with the Allies during the Second World War. In her speech last night, the Queen referred to Poland's own wartime suffering: "The name of Warsaw, and the heroism and tragedy of the uprisings in 1944, and earlier in the ghetto, will never be forgotten in Britain as an inspiring example of courage and faith. No ally could do enough to help Warsaw in those dark days, but I am proud that we did everything we could."

The Queen had been in the country barely half an hour when she was obliged to speak two words of Polish. Reviewing a guard of honour at the presidential palace, she stopped before the assembled troops and said to them, rather quietly: "Czolem zolnierze." (welcome, soldiers). They roared back in Polish, extremely loudly: "Hail Your Majesty", a cry not heard in the land since King Stanislaw vacated the throne in 1795.

The guard of honour marched off in a goose step reminiscent of their recent Russian military tradition, which will presumably have to be abolished if the country ever does join Nato.

The Queen, meanwhile, appointed the President a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath; he in return invested her with the Order of the White Eagle, the highest award in the Polish armoury of decorations.

The only members of the crowd apparently unimpressed by their royal visitor were eight representatives of the Polish Kennel Club (Welsh Corgi section) who would have nipped the royal ankles had their owners not held them up for a face-to-face encounter with a fellow enthusiast.



Lech Walesa: visited London in 1991

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Photograph, page 24

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Council ignored health warning on flats to save money

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE leaders on Westminster City Council secretly decided to put homeless families into asbestos-ridden high-rise flats in an attempt to save millions of pounds and to thwart a bid by tenants to buy out the estate.

The exposure may result in severe health risks, said the 200,000-word independent report into why 150 homeless families were housed in the two 21-storey blocks in Paddington, west London. It found that the decision was influenced by its advantage to the local Tory party, and that the officials were browbeaten and then ignored by the council's unofficial chairmen's group, led by Dame Shirley Porter and Barry Legg, who is now MP for Milton Keynes South West.

John Barratt, the former chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council who drew up the report, concluded that the council's management of the two blocks was unacceptable and that councillors were more interested in saving money than listening to warnings.

He decided that the council's main objective was to stop tenants taking over the Walterton and Elgin estates (WECH), because this would cost the council millions of pounds having to repair the flats before they were handed over.

The report traced the decision, taken in 1989, to house the homeless in Hermes and Chantry blocks — known as the Points — to the chairmen's group, then led by Mr Legg, Tory chief whip on the council. Its decisions were taken without reference to the housing committee.

"I have to conclude ... that the decision to accommodate homeless families in the Points was taken by chairmen, influenced by considerations of party advantage," Mr Barratt says.

The overriding objective of the chairmen became the defeat of the tenants' bid, the report says, and the introduction of homeless families offered a way of achieving this.

"The coincidence of this objective with the officers' task of reducing homlessness costs to within budget made the use of the Points for housing homeless families extremely attractive."

"Despite the availability of the clearest advice and instructions to the contrary, those acting on behalf of a public body repeatedly took risks, for a variety of reasons ... with the health of people who ought to have been entitled to assume that such risks were not being taken.

"The exposure suffered by some individuals may yet result in serious health consequences. Even where the risks were low the protracted exposure may also yet result in serious health consequences."

The report is to be debated at a public meeting of the council on April 4. Families who were moved into the blocks have been told to contact a helpline, and several said yesterday that they were considering suing the council for damages.

Allegations that homeless people were moved into the flats as part of a gerrymandering policy by the council were not proven by the asbestos report.



Dame Shirley Porter and Barry Legg, who were found to have browbeaten council officials

'Vote-rigging' report awaited

THE accusation that Westminster Council put families into asbestos-riddled flats comes as the final report on the council's alleged "homes-for-votes" policy is awaited.

John Magill, the district auditor, has been looking into an alleged vote-rigging strategy by the Tory group. His provisional report, in January 1994, found that the Conservatives had shored up their slim town hall majority by tempting potential Tory voters to buy council homes in marginal wards and sealing vacant homes to deter squatters. The homeless were then accommodated in expensive temporary accommodation.

Dame Shirley Porter, then leader of Westminster City Council, four other councillors and four officers all deny the charge and say they did nothing unlawful. They argue that the housing policy was intended to save money and make home ownership available to middle-income families.

If Mr Magill's final report confirms his earlier finding he will seek a High Court order requiring the nine to pay back £29 million that the policy is estimated to have cost and disqualifying them from holding public office.



JOEL CHANT

Abel Goodman with his wife last month. He was the fourth patient in Britain to be fitted with a mechanical heart

Man with mechanical heart dies

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PATIENT who had been fitted with a battery-powered heart, in the programme to develop a mechanical substitute for human transplants, has died.

The death of Abel Goodman, 64, a London film producer from Wimbledon who had survived for five months with the pneumatic pump, the size of a grapefruit, represents a setback for the programme. He was never well enough to leave hospital. Last week surgeons detected a problem with the pump and removed it in a five-hour operation on Saturday.

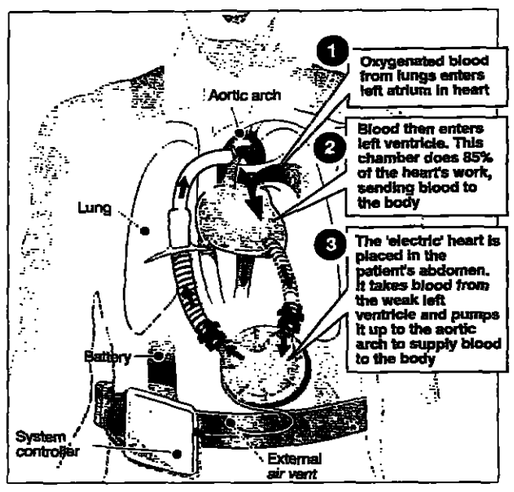
Mr Goodman had been thought to be recovering well in intensive care but on Sunday night his condition deteriorated. He died 30 hours after the operation with his wife Irene and their two children at his side.

Stephen Westaby, who led the surgical team at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, said yesterday that Mr Goodman's own heart, which had been left in his body, had made a "remarkable recovery" during the months it had been allowed to rest.

"The mechanical heart was removed after bleeding around the device became a cause for concern," he said. "However, Mr Goodman developed a sudden and unpredictable change of heart rhythm from which he could not be resuscitated."

Mr Goodman had been turned down for an NHS transplant, normally limited to patients under 60, and had been told he had only months to live. He was the fourth patient in Britain to receive an artificial pump intended to take over permanent operation of the heart. Devices were implanted in three patients at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, last year; all have since died.

A fifth patient received one of the devices at the John Radcliffe Hospital last week. The hospital said the man, also aged 64, was in a stable and satisfactory condition.



The demand for a mechanical substitute for the natural heart has arisen because of a shortage of donors and problems with transplants which require expensive courses of drugs and reduce resistance to infection.

The device is implanted in the abdomen below the heart and connected to its left ventricle. It is powered by a battery pack worn around the waist and connected through a hole in the abdominal wall.

Last month, Mr Westaby said the device implanted in Mr Goodman had worked well. "The artificial heart has saved his life on many occasions. We are winning. There is no doubt we are going to make mechanical hearts a success within two years."

Early in the new year, Mr Goodman developed flu followed by a near fatal infection with a staphylococcus bacterium. But for that setback he might have recovered enough to be allowed home, Mr Westaby said.

Mike Fleming, director of personnel and administration at the hospital, said everyone was extremely upset and sent their sympathies to Mr Goodman's family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hepatitis all-clear for patients

Blood tests have shown that none of the patients operated on by a doctor carrying the hepatitis B virus has contracted the disease. The 27 patients were recalled for blood tests after surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, between November last year and January. They will be retested in three months.

A junior surgeon on a short-term contract was found to have had the disease after leaving the hospital.

Killing denied

Daio Powell, 22, who joined the Perth-based Western Reds from Bradford Northern for the 1995 Australian rugby league season, denied at the Western Australian Supreme Court killing an Australian man in a street fight last year outside a nightclub.

Tate gets £3.8m

The Tate Gallery Liverpool has been awarded £3.8 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The gallery, which opened in 1988, urgently needs more space for exhibitions and educational activities. New rooms, to be created on the top floor, will open in May 1998.

Rail crash trial

Stewart Kernan, 23, of Begbroke, Oxfordshire, was committed to trial at Crown Court by Witney magistrates charged with endangering public safety after he left his van on a railway line. No one was hurt when a freight train ran into the van.

Cash on a plate

A collection of 115 political mugs and plates commemorating political figures from the Tolpuddle Martyrs to Margaret Thatcher, assembled by the former TUC president Clive Jenkins, 69, fetched £9,840 at Phillips in London yesterday.

18 holes in one

A Suffolk golfer can claim a round in one. When Neville Rowlandson, 56, drove off on the 420-yard first hole at the Felixstowe Ferry club, his ball hit a wooden sign at the front of the tee, bounced 25 yards to the 18th green, hit the flag and dropped in the hole.

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Five footballing greats stamp their class on Euro championship

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE of Britain's greatest footballers — William "Dixie" Dean, Bobby Moore, Duncan Edwards, Billy Wright and Danny Blanchflower — are commemorated in a new set of stamps chosen in a nationwide poll.

For the first time the public was asked to vote for whose head would be on a stamp. The shortlist of ten was restricted to players who were dead because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family is allowed to appear on British stamps.

Readers of *The Times*, who filled in a ballot form in the paper last September, were among the thousands of people who voted. The shortlist was chosen from 41 contenders by a panel including Jimmy Hill, the television analyst, and Rob Hughes, football correspondent of *The Times*. The stamps commemorate the Euro 96 football championship this June and will be sold from May 14. Terry Venables, the England coach, said: "These five would have been my first selections. I do not think the public could have chosen better."

The remaining players were: Peter Doherty, the Northern Ireland midfield player; Alex James, the schemer of the outstanding Arsenal and Scottish teams in the 1920s and 1930s; Joe Mercer, another Arsenal creator and England international; Billy Meredith, the Welsh winger; and Frank Swift, the Manchester City and England goalkeeper. Unusually, only one of the five footballers selected for the special stamps was a forward. Most public polls tend to be biased against midfield players and particularly defenders, who are perceived to be less glamorous than match-winning goalscorers.

Dean was clearly an outstanding contender because he scored a record 60 goals in a single first-division season. Between 1924 and 1940, he amassed 379 goals in a career of 437 games for Tranmere, Everton, Notts County and England, for whom he played in 16 matches.

Moore captained England in their greatest triumph, the 1966 World Cup victory. But he was also a masterly reader of the game who, as a central defender, broke up attacks with calm interceptions rather than particularly sharp tackling. Pele regarded him as his greatest opponent.

Edwards was a "Busby Babe" who scored goals but was primarily an attacking wing-half for Manchester United and England. He has a mythical status in football because he died, aged 21, in the Munich air disaster in 1958, his promise unfulfilled.

Wright won 105 caps for England, 90 of them as captain. He was a fierce-tackling half-back, the cornerstone of a defence, who played for Wolverhampton Wanderers from 1941-59 and was immensely loyal to his club and his country.

Danny Blanchflower is the one non-Englishman in the final five although he played largely in the Football League. The Ulsterman captained Tottenham Hotspur when they became the first club this century to complete the double of FA Cup and first division title in 1960-61. He was renowned for his eloquence, on and off the pitch, and for the precision of his passing.

The Royal Mail, which conducted the poll, will announce the result of a ballot for Britain's greatest player and for the greatest club side on May 14.

Airport mugger attacks teacher with ice pick

BY TIM JONES

A YOUNG British teacher was attacked by a mugger wielding an ice pick minutes after landing at Manila airport in the Philippines.

Jacqueline Kane, 22, who was stabbed twice in the chest, managed to stagger to a youth hostel to summon help. She was recovering in hospital yesterday.

Miss Kane, who teaches English at a school in Japan, had flown to Manila to meet friends and begin a tour of the country. She had just cleared customs and was waiting for a taxi when the thief attacked her when she refused to surrender her bag.

After the attack, she was rushed to the San Juan de Dios hospital in the capital and given emergency treatment. John Kane, 59, her father, who runs a horticultural nursery at Wooler, Northumberland, said: "It is a horrifying thing to happen. She is a slight girl and must have looked vulnerable. She was stabbed twice in the chest with an ice pick but somehow managed to get to the hostel herself."

Mr Kane, whose wife Wilma is a teacher at Glendale Middle School in Wooler, added: "I am quite certain she would have put up a fight. She is only small but plucky.

"I worry about her all the time being out there. But she is strong willed and independent and was determined to go abroad to teach and we didn't like to stand in her way."

Mr Kane said his daughter, who graduated from Leicester University last July, had an ambition to work in the Diplomatic Service and wanted to gain as much travel experience as possible. "She had intended to meet up with some people to travel in the Philippines but was alone when the attack occurred. We are very proud of her. She is doing well as a teacher and has signed up for another year in Japan," Mr Kane said.

The British Embassy said: "She is resting in hospital at the moment and fortunately no vital organs were hit."


Jacqueline Kane was stabbed twice in the chest



Film-maker to challenge ancient blasphemy law

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE director of a film that includes scenes of Christ on the cross being caressed by a nun is to challenge Britain's blasphemy law in the European Court of Human Rights tomorrow.

Nigel Wingrove will tell the Strasbourg court that his rights to freedom of expression were infringed when the British Board of Film Classification banned *Visions of Ecstasy* on the ground that it was blasphemous. The right to free speech is guaranteed under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

If Mr Wingrove succeeds, the Government may be forced to ask Parliament to reconsider the blasphemy law, which dates from the Middle Ages. Although the Law Commission decreed in 1985 that the law should be abolished, and the Church of England General Synod has suggested that it be replaced by legislation outlawing religious discrimination, the Home Office had said it has no immediate plans for reform.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, acting for Mr Wingrove, will tell the court that Britain's blasphemy laws are anachronistic and discriminatory as they protect only Christianity among the faiths practised in this country.

He said yesterday: "The British Government is defending the indefensible: an ancient law which discriminates on religious grounds and imposes unnecessary censorship on writers and artists. Blasphemy laws are the hallmark of primitive, not progressive, societies."

Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, has provided a statement supporting Mr Wingrove that will be read to the court. *Visions of Ecstasy* depicts the erotic visions of St Teresa of Avila, a 16th-century Carmelite nun. One scene shows her having an erotic fantasy with another woman, who represents her alter ego. It cuts to shots of her lying on Christ, who is still nailed to the cross.

Mr Wingrove, an agnostic, said he did not intend to be blasphemous. "The film was inspired by Bernini's statue *The Ecstasy of St Teresa* in Rome, which is very erotic. It is also meant to explore the darker side of eroticism."

The Home Office said that it would vigorously defend the case. "We have given the BBFC the powers to classify films and they found it to be blasphemous," a spokeswoman said.

The crime of blasphemy and blasphemous libel has been a common-law offence for three centuries, but its origins can be traced back to the ecclesiastic courts of the Middle Ages. Under the law, "every publication is said to be blasphemous, which contains any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ or the Bible, or the formularies of the Church of England . . ". Muslim leaders have urged the law to be extended to other faiths.

France, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway have abolished blasphemy laws. There have been only two successful prosecutions for blasphemy in Britain this century. The last was in 1977, when *Gay News* was prosecuted for printing a poem using homosexual imagery in relation to God. In 1921 a Mr J. Gott was sentenced to nine months' prison for publishing a pamphlet entitled *Rib Ticklers or Questions for Parsons.*

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Harman says Tories "dragged their feet" before taking steps to protect public health

Labour accuses ministers of repeated failure to act

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DEBATE

THE Government's reckless disregard for public health and obsession with deregulation was the cause of the "mad cow" crisis, Labour said yesterday.

In furious exchanges after two ministerial statements in the Commons on BSE, Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, told MPs that public confidence in the beef industry had collapsed and accused ministers of acting too slowly.

Ms Harman said that the problem was rooted in the Government's repeated failure to take effective action to protect food.

Ms Harman was in turn accused by Tory MPs of exploiting the crisis to make political points. When Tony Marlow (C, Northampton North) referred to Ms Harman as "a stupid cow" he was ordered by the Speaker to withdraw the remark.

In response to the first statement by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Ms Harman said the Government had "dragged their feet" in the late 1980s before making BSE notifiable, banning animal protein and bovine offal, and requiring compulsory slaughter and compensation. "Instead, deregulation dogma fuelled by complacency has caused a nightmare scenario for consumers and farmers alike."

She demanded rigorous enforcement of current rules and urged the Government to publish full information for the public on the risk of eating beef compared with other meats. She also called on ministers to advise schools to be "better safe than sorry" and take beef off school dinners for at least nine months.

Ms Harman told Mr Dorrell: "Don't you understand, you still have not done enough to restore the confidence of the British consumer in British beef. They will continue to buy beef, but it will not be ours."

She added: "This crisis has shown that the Government can no longer govern because people do not trust them. How can this Government restore public confidence, when the public has no confidence in this Government?"

In reply, Mr Dorrell angrily told Ms Harman: "I think the country listening to you will find it deeply offensive that you have opened up a wide chasm between the principles you say inform your policy and the ferreting around for party political advantage that has manifested itself in both of your interventions on this subject."

He challenged Ms Harman to say what action she would take. There was no evidence of the Government delaying action and said all the relevant information had been published.

After a statement by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, Tory MPs stepped up their attack on Labour. James Couchman (C, Gillingham) urged Mr Hogg to "ignore the hysterical politicking from the other side of the Chamber, and indeed the mass whipped-up scaremongering of the media over the weekend".

Tim Yeo (C, Suffolk S), a former Tory minister, said if the beef industry collapsed, voters in rural areas would blame Labour's "hysterical demands".

Paul Marland (C, Gloucestershire W), chairman of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, said MPs were at the debate because they cared about public health. "It is quite nauseating that Opposition MPs should try to claim this as their own public domain when we are all here for that very reason," he said. He urged Mr Hogg to look at how many cases of BSE existed in other European Union countries and whether they were trying to pass them off as other diseases. "I get the feeling that our EU partners are using this present difficulties as an opportunity to do down our industry for the betterment of their own," he said.

For the Liberal Democrats, Paul Tyler (Cornwall N) cautioned against slaughtering British herds, only to risk bringing in BSE infected beef from the Continent. To Tory cheers, he said: "In those circumstances, it is equally absurd for the burger giants to be importing beef which is not regulated and inspected to the same high standards we have in this country."

Mr Hogg replied: "On logic and on the scientific evidence, I agree with you that it isn't necessary for anybody to withdraw from eating British beef or from using it."



Stephen Dorrell's statement brought an angry response from Harriet Harman

Farmers appalled by ban

REACTION

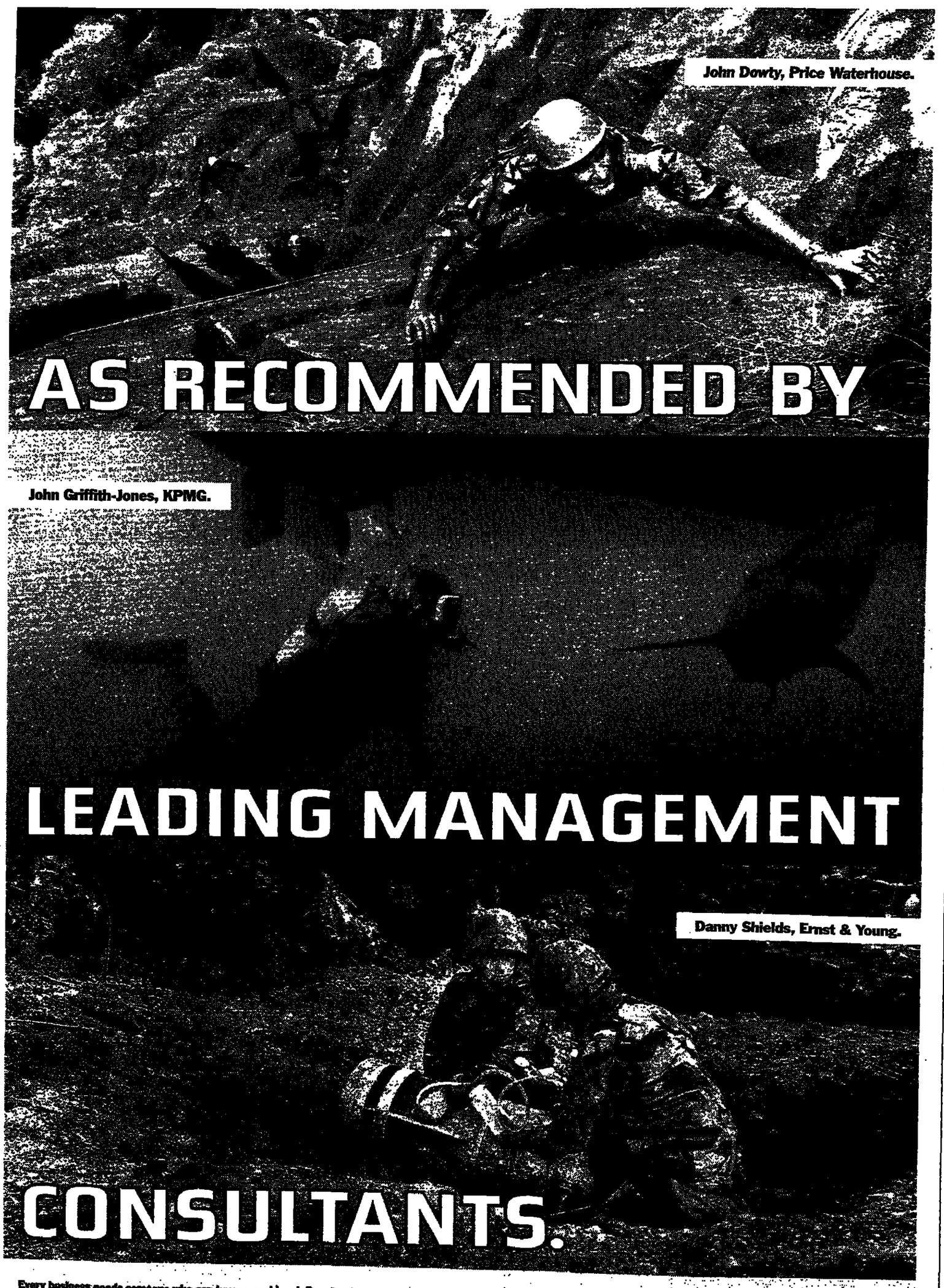
BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

FARMERS said they were "horrified" yesterday by the European Union's decision to impose a ban on imports of British beef. A trade worth about £450 million a year will be wiped out.

"We are deeply disappointed the EU has taken this action," a spokesman said. "There is no justification for it at all."

The news came as farmers voiced mixed reactions to the Government's decision yesterday not to have an immediate cull of older animals.

Dairy farmers, who would have been worst affected, expressed relief. But some beef farmers said they feared that the Government's inaction would cause consumer confidence in beef to fall further. They feel aggrieved that they have been hit by falling beef sales when the vast majority of BSE cases have been in dairy herds.



Britain isolated in bid to sway EU partners

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS

BRITISH officials failed yesterday to dissuade European Union colleagues from imposing an EU-wide ban on British beef as the Brussels Commission endorsed bans by individual member states.

Keith Meldrum, Britain's Chief Veterinary Officer, put London's case at a session of the EU's standing veterinary committee, which was under heavy pressure from member states to recommend an all-out ban on British beef and its by-products from all 14 other member states. "I am hopeful there will be a continuation of trade," Mr Meldrum said.

Mr Meldrum found himself alone against the 14 other member states when the committee reviewed proposals for action. All Britain's partners said they wanted an immediate ban on all British beef imports until the health picture was clarified, according to officials attending the close-door meeting. They also wanted Britain to present an urgent plan on how it intended to eradicate BSE disease from its cattle.

The majority view was put by Stan Van Der Meys, the Dutch official at the meeting. "We are looking for a ban on imports of British beef and beef products until it's absolutely clear on which farms BSE has occurred," he said.

Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, put a package of proposals to the committee as a prelude to a vote on action.

A British official said there was embarrassment when Britain pressed the EU officials for their scientific reasoning. "They had no real answers to our questions on this. They couldn't tell us why this was the way to go."

Amid widespread confusion over the scope for Commission action, officials said yesterday they were unsure whether Brussels had the authority to order the slaughter of British cattle, even if that was decided by Herr Fischler.

Ministers from France, Germany and other states made clear they would brook nothing less than radical action to prevent the possible spread of disease and a collapse of confidence in Europe's beef industry. As the animal experts met, several foreign ministers attending a separate conference said it was up to the Commission to show Europe the way.

Britain's handling of the crisis, already criticised across the Continent, came under fire from the Commission. "It might have helped if we had been given a little forewarning," Herr Fischler's spokesman said.

The Commission made its anger known in a letter to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister. A spokesman voiced amazement that Mr Hogg had given no word of the Government's impending announcement when farm ministers had met in Brussels early last week. The letter questioned the Government's wisdom in making an announcement that risked creating a public scare while it seemed to contain no new evidence linking BSE to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Consumer confidence was at the centre of the Commission's concerns, officials said. Emma Bonino, the Consumer Affairs Commissioner, said she was calling a meeting of scientists to give "basic guidelines" to restore confidence.

The Commission acknowledged that the financial implications of the BSE scare were vast and hard to quantify. Only a few million pounds remained in the kitty of the Common Agriculture Policy for compensating farmers for diseased animals. An emergency fund would have to be set up, but it was not yet clear how it could be managed, officials said. Some estimates put the potential cost at billions of pounds.

The CAP is equipped to intervene to buy in beef once the price falls below 60 per cent of the intervention level for a period of two weeks. Prices this week have plunged well below that figure, but officials were hoping it could be restored.

Herd slaughtered after disease found

FRANCE

A HERD of 151 cattle was slaughtered by French health authorities yesterday after one was found to be infected with "mad cow" disease.

At the same time, customs officials in Calais intercepted four lorries allegedly carrying British beef in violation of the French import ban. The lorries, including an Irish truck carrying 19 tonnes of frozen beef liver, were searched after arriving by ferry and returned to Britain.

In one truck, eight cartons of British beef were "hidden" in a mixed shipment containing cheese and lamb, customs officials said. The infected cow was found last month on a farm at Pommerit-le-Vicomte in the Côtes-d'Armor region of Brittany, one of three cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy identified in France this year.

A smaller herd containing an infected cow at a farm near Callac in Brittany will be destroyed shortly, the Agriculture Ministry said. On March 11, a herd of 80 cattle was slaughtered in the Finistere region of Brittany after another case of BSE was identified.

According to official figures, 16 cases of mad cow disease have been identified in France since 1991, ten of them in Brittany, and officials say that in each case the infection can be traced to contaminated British cattle feed.

☐ Austria is banning the import of Swiss beef and beef products from today to protect consumers from "mad cow" disease, the Health Ministry announced. Switzerland has reported 205 cases since it started keeping track of the disease in the late 1980s.

Should farmers be given government pay-out over BSE scare if they ignored the rules?

Archers catch up with late news

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DISCONTENT about the Government's handling of the beef crisis spread swiftly to *The Archers*, Radio 4's long-running agricultural soap opera.

Scriptwriters and actors were rushed to the BBC's Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham at 6pm yesterday to rewrite and re-record part of last night's episode. With just minutes to spare before the show was due to go out at 7.05pm they incorporated news of yesterday's Commons statement on the BSE scare.

Phil Archer, who keeps 50 beef cattle, expressed relief that the Government had decided not to order the mass slaughter of cattle and that beef will not be ordered off school dinner menus. However, he told Nigel Pargetter, his son-in-law, whose only connection with beef is his pampered pet cow Ellie May, that farmers felt let down by the Government, because they were never allowed to know what went into the animal feedstuff that caused the spread of BSE.

Norman Painting, who has played Phil since the first episode of *The Archers* on January 1, 1951, said that although he hoped the programme would portray the genuine concern that many people felt, it would also help to dampen down mounting public hysteria about mad cow disease.

Last Thursday's instalment also included a last-minute script change.

Infected cattle are presumed to have eaten illegal feed

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 26,000 of the 160,000 cattle that have developed "mad cow" disease were born after a ban on the feed that is supposed to have caused the condition, it was disclosed yesterday.

The animals are presumed to have eaten feed that was illegally in use after July 1988, the date the ban took effect. If farmers ignored the regulations, the question now is whether they should be entitled to compensation for any damaged caused by the BSE panic.

Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed yesterday that there had been a "carry-over" of some stocks of feed from 1988 into 1989, but was unable to say how many farmers were involved.

"It was not necessarily a case of deliberate wrongdoing," a spokesman said. "There could have been cross-contamination between the banned feed and other feed stored in the same barn or shed. This could also have occurred at the feed mills which supplied the farmers."

COMPENSATION

Scientists believe that "mad cow" disease — bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — was caused by cows being fed meat and bone meal incorporating the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, a similar disease. After July 1988, farmers were required to destroy any such feed that they still had in store.

Ian Gardiner, director of policy at the National Farmers' Union, said: "In any walk of life you get some people who ignore the regulations. Many farmers may simply have taken some time to realise what the regulations were. Farmers are notorious for taking no notice of letters and circulars. In real life you would not expect a ban of this kind to be watertight from day one. It is worth noting that more than 80 per cent of BSE-infected cattle born after the ban were born in the second half of 1988 or in 1989 when it was almost inevitable that some banned feed would still have been around."

One difficulty in trying to apportion blame is that scientists are unsure whether feed is the only source of BSE. One possibility, still unproven, is that cows with BSE can pass the disease to their offspring. This may account for some of the 26,000 animals born after July 1988 who have died of BSE.

Mr Gardiner said: "I totally reject the suggestion that farmers were the authors of their own misfortune. Until 1988 the feed they used was pronounced safe by scientists and the Government. Very few would deliberately have gone on using it after that date."

Philip Lymbery, of Compassion in World Farming, said farmers were not alone to blame. "The whole agricultural industry was guilty of malpractice and disrespect for animals by allowing the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants in the first place. What is needed is an independent inquiry."

Support for compensation for farmers was voiced yesterday by Linda Whetstone, a free-market economist who writes for the Adam Smith Institute. "I see no case at all for subsidising farmers, but if millions of healthy animals were to be slaughtered for no reason other than appeasing public hysteria, it is not unreasonable that the electorate at large should carry the can financially." It is possible that Britain could have exported BSE to the Continent in infected meat and bonemeal. France has reported 13 cases of BSE and Switzerland 206. Many people think France may have had more cases than it admits.

Leading article, page 19



Farmers watch the few cattle for sale at Carlisle, yesterday. Prices were down by about 40 per cent on the week before

'If restrictions are enforced the risk will be very small'

The following is the statement from the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee:

THE committee has reported ten cases of a previously unrecognised variant of CJD [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease]. It agreed this weekend, after further discussion and consideration of additional genetic data from some of these patients, that our conclusions of March 20, 1996 are unchanged. That is, on current data and in the absence of any credible alternative, the most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the SBO ban in 1989. It emphasises that there are only ten cases to date, and that it is not in a position to confirm whether or not there is a causal link between BSE and the human disease.

Risk assessment

The committee has carefully considered whether a quantitative risk assessment can provide an estimate of the absolute risk in relation to BSE. In its judgment a precise measure is impossible because of a number of interacting

GOVERNMENT ADVISERS

uncertainties, including:

- the magnitude of the species barrier between cattle and man;
- lack of data on levels of infectivity in a range of important cattle tissues which are below the level of detectability by current assays;
- the uneven distribution of infectivity in any tissue;
- the time course for the appearance of infectivity over the duration of the incubation period;
- whether there is a dose below which there is no risk of infection.

It therefore made assessments on the basis of the available quantitative data, and where these were lacking on expert opinion and its own collective judgment.

Age-related susceptibility

SEAC has been asked to give further advice on the risk to children. It first considered whether susceptibility is likely to be age-related. It had a wide ranging discussion of the changes in the physiology of the human gastro-intestinal tract and host defences throughout life. It was assisted in these discussions by three leading experts covering the fields of paediatrics, gastroenterology, infection and immunity. It considered carefully its knowledge of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies* in natural infections and animal model systems. If the new variant of CJD is related to exposure to BSE, this exposure is likely to have been between 1982 and late 1989, and the age range of the cases does not suggest that those who were children at the time were at any greater risk than young adults. Taking all the above into account it concludes that if human infection with the BSE agent occurs, infants and children are not likely to be more susceptible to that infection than are adults.

It is not clear why no cases of this previously unrecognised variant have been found in older patients. This could be due to different age-related dietary habits, to reduced susceptibility in this group, or to the unrecognised occurrence of this variant of the disease in older age groups, especially those in which dementia is more prevalent.

Other vulnerable groups

The committee also considered the following groups: the immunosuppressed, patients in hospital and pregnant women. It concludes that, in its judgment, if human infection with the BSE agent occurs, none of these groups is likely to have any increased susceptibility to infection.

*kuru, CJD, scrapie, transmissible mink encephalopathy, BSE

The younger generation and parental concern

The committee is aware that the public want to be reassured, most especially about the risks to the younger generation. Parents are naturally concerned about the risks to their own children. No human activity is without some risk: if the Government rigorously enforces the current and newly recommended controls, we believe that this risk is likely to be extremely small; however the committee recognises that parents will often choose to reduce risk to their children beyond that which they are prepared to accept for themselves. It is important to be aware that many foods are associated with health risks, and that changing from beef to non-beef products is not necessarily without risk.

Cattle over 30 months

The committee reconfirmed its recommendation that cattle aged over 30 months must be deboned in licensed plants, and went on to recommend that the trimmings, comprising the obvious nervous and lymphatic tissue) including the 14 lymph nodes specified in EC trade legislation) and the vertebral column (excluding tail vertebrae) should be treated as specified bovine offal [SBO]. Other bones do not need to be treated as SBO if they can be separated from the vertebral column, without cross contamination.

It also recommended that the whole head of animals aged over six months of age, except for the tongue (provided that it is removed with contamination), should be treated as specified bovine offal.

The committee asked Government to ensure that the relevant authorities have the necessary statutory authority to enforce fully these recommendations and the existing provisions.

Gelatin

The committee reviewed the use of gelatin produced from non-SBO bovine material with the assistance of an expert from the Medicines Control Agency (MCA). It concluded that this material was safe for use in pharmaceutical and medical devices as well as food, given the large reduction in theoretical infectivity in the production of gelatin. It noted that the MCA will be reviewing the use of gelatin and tallow [in] May 1996.

Meat and bone meal

The committee confirmed its previous advice that the use of mammalian meat and bone meal should be prohibited in any circumstances where there might be a risk of the material being fed to or ingested by ruminants. In particular, it must not be incorporated into any feed for farmed animals, including fish or horses, or into fertiliser likely to be used on land to which ruminants have access.

Advice

The committee therefore advise the Government:

a) To ensure that all the restrictions previously recommended, those of March 20, 1996 and in this document, are fully implemented and sustained. If this is ensured, any BSE-related risk from eating any beef or beef products is likely to be extremely small.

b) To reinforce immediately the surveillance of CJD and associated epidemiological research, commensurate with the emerging medical, social and economic importance of this disease.

c) That these issues will require long-term, basic and applied research. Both the immediate and the long-term research needs will require substantial additional resources. It is important that there should be no delays due to difficulties in obtaining resources.

The committee does not believe that additional measures are justified at this stage, but the situation needs to be kept under careful review so that additional significant information can be taken into account as soon as it becomes available.

Ignorance clouds official advice

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

ANALYSIS

THE advice given by the Government's advisory committee on BSE rests on shakier foundations than Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, sought to imply in his statement to the Commons yesterday.

Mr Dorrell emphasised that his actions have been dictated by the scientific facts. Yet the committee's advice is three quarters opinion and only about a quarter fact.

In its statement, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee makes clear that it does not know how high the species barrier between cows and man is; how infective the different cuts of beef may be; how infection is distributed even within a single cut; and how quickly infectivity of beef rises in the period before BSE symptoms become clear.

Given this ignorance, the committee has been forced to fall back on first principles in assessing risk. In general, says Dr John Wilson, a consultant neurologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London — and not a member of the group — infants are not at greater risk of contracting brain infections than adults.

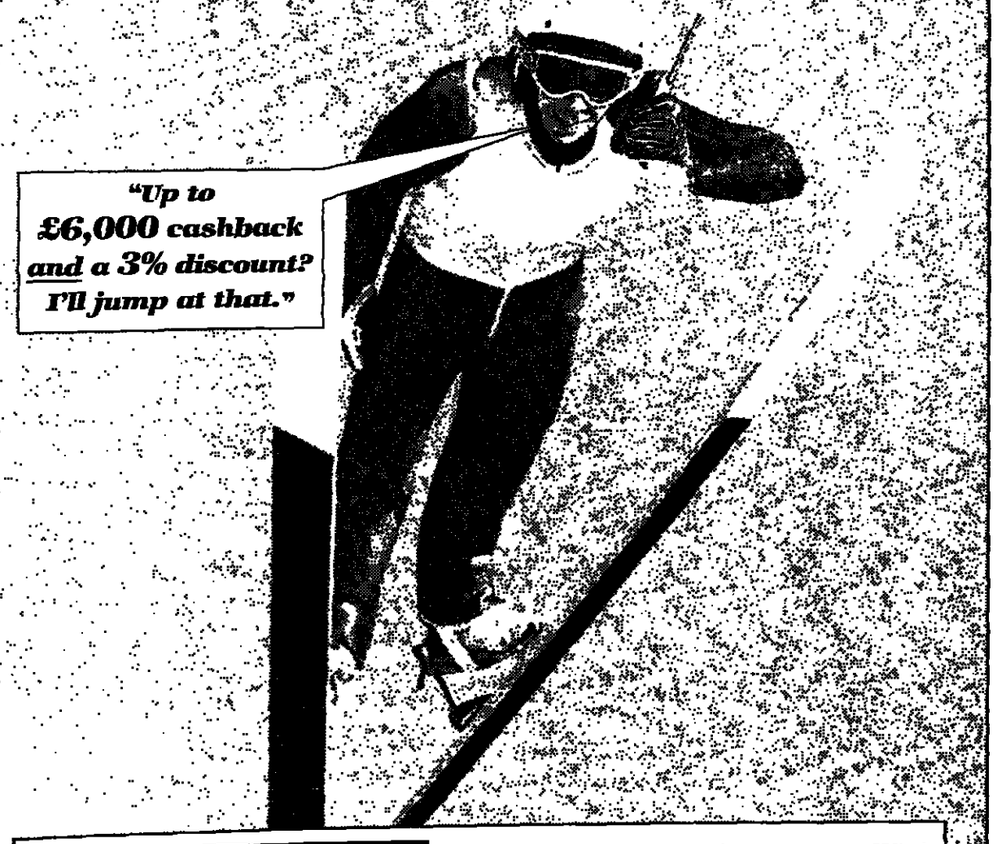
In encephalitis, for example, children aged three are least likely to get it. Older children are more susceptible. "This may be something to do with immune function rather than brain function," he says.

From arguments of this kind, the committee concluded that children are at no greater risk than adults. Yet one of the few real facts before them was that all the ten cases identified are in younger people, with an average age of 27.

"It is not clear why no cases of this previously unrecognised variant have been found in older patients," the statement says. Three possible explanations are offered: different dietary habits, reduced susceptibility in this group, or the fact that this variant has so far not been noticed in older people.

The second of these, however, implies that younger people may be more susceptible, exactly the possibility the committee has just dismissed. They square this is by pointing out that if the infections were acquired between 1982 and 1989 — as they assume — then some of the victims were children and some were young adults at the time. On this basis, children *per se* are not at greater risk.

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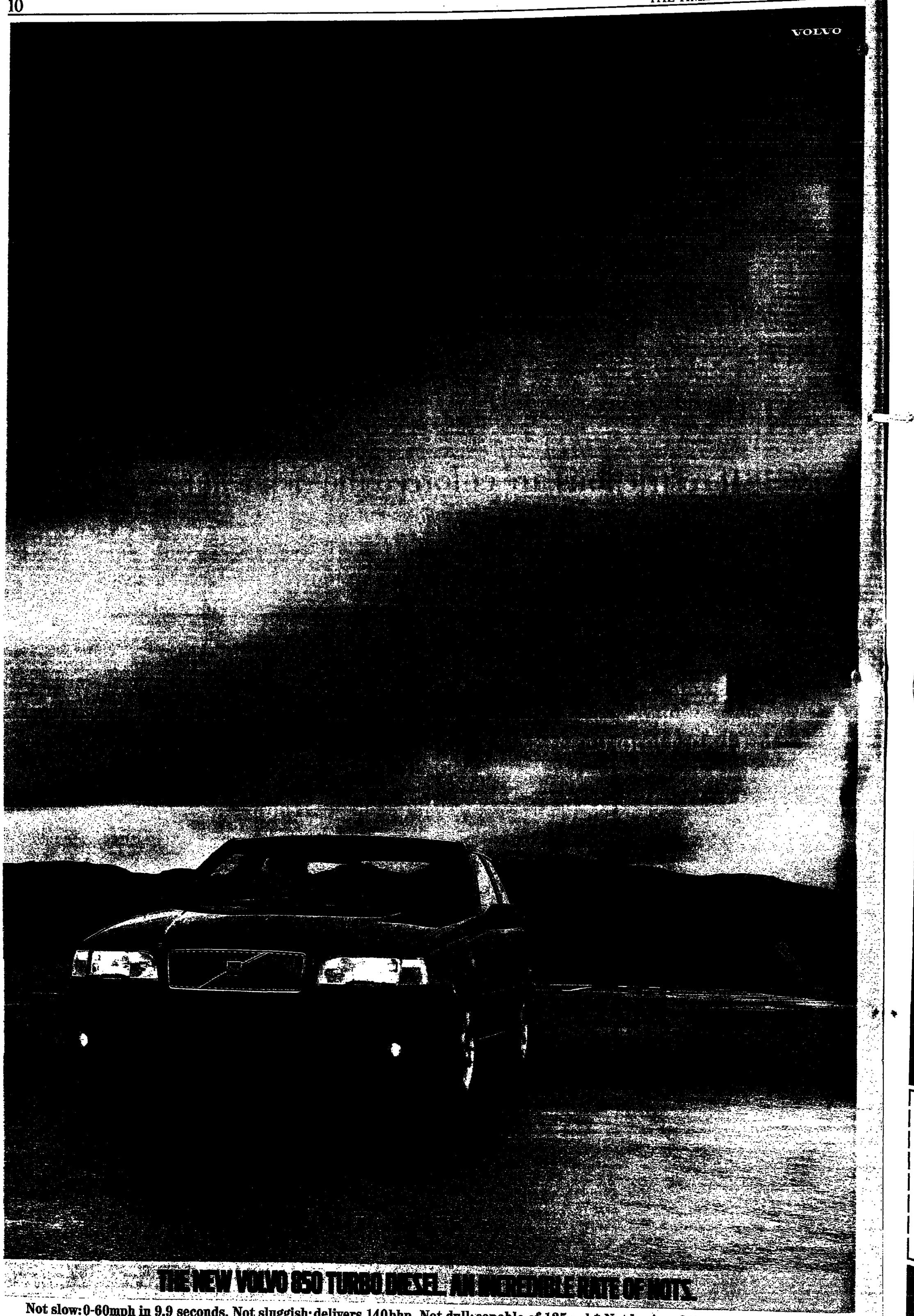
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THE TIMES T

Democr leader frozen o by Chin

By JONATHAN

NONE of Hong K democrats will be ab to sit on the Legis Council that Chin appoint to replace present wholly e one, a Peking announced yesterday

The "provisional lature will be selecte this year or early and will go into s immediately, prop and abolishing laws the current body i sitting. For at least six months of rule, therefore Kong will have no lative Councils at odds with each oth

Hong Kong d have voiced outrage announcement Wui-ting, assist tor of the New News Agency, Chinas de facto in Hong Kong. M also on the Prepara made up of Hon and mainland P pointees, which ing up plans Kong's position tration. Democ also excluded fr

The committee declared two days the existing Legislative Coun be wound up on 1997 – two y its statutory term Patten, the colon ernor denounced cision as a "blat Hong Kong" guise for keep crats who won number of seats year's council off its successor.

Martin Lee, H cratic Party chair a leading QC, s day that he mig the decision as as a violation of British agreement the Basic Law mini-constitution 1997.

But he added those excluded s proud" that they not be serving on body.

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Democrat leaders frozen out by China

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

NONE of Hong Kong's democrats will be allowed to sit on the Legislative Council that China will appoint to replace the present wholly elected one, a Peking official announced yesterday.

The "provisional" legislature will be selected late this year or early in 1997 and will go into session immediately, proposing and abolishing laws while the current body is still sitting. For at least the last six months of colonial rule, therefore, Hong Kong will have two Legislative Councils at constant odds with each other.

Hong Kong democrats have voiced outrage at the announcement by Lee Wui-ting, assistant director of the New China News Agency, which is China's de facto embassy in Hong Kong. Mr Lee is also on the 150-member Preparatory Committee, made up of Hong Kong and mainland Peking appointees, which is drawing up plans for Hong Kong's post-1997 administration. Democrats were also excluded from that.

The committee formally declared two days ago that the existing 60-member Legislative Council would be wound up on July 1, 1997 — two years short of its statutory term. Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, denounced that decision as a "black day for Hong Kong" and a disguise for keeping democrats, who won the largest number of votes in last year's council elections, off its successor.

Martin Lee, the Democratic Party chairman and a leading QC, said yesterday that he might contest the decision in the courts as a violation of past Sino-British agreements and of the Basic Law — Peking's mini-constitution for post-1997.

But he added that "all those excluded should feel proud" that they would not be serving on a puppet body.

Peking ends military manoeuvres off Taiwan

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA announced last night that its war games were over, temporarily halting moves to intimidate Taiwan, which completed a historic presidential election at the weekend.

The action pushed the issues dividing China and Taiwan into the political rather than the military arena. Peking's

WAR GAMES

land, sea and air exercises last week in the northwest corner of the Taiwan Strait were the last of a series that began last year. But military observers in the Chinese capital said the latest war games never quite reached the scale of the earlier ones, either because of financial constraints or even political infighting in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy.

The United States, which had dispatched two naval battlegroups to the area to counter China's intimidation of Taiwan, acted yesterday to ease tensions by signalling their imminent pullout. The *USS Independence* will return to her base in Japan within a few days, said a Pentagon official in Washington, while the *USS Nimitz* will conduct routine operations around Taiwan for another week and then sail for America.

It is unusual for Washington to announce such fleet movements in advance and indicates a willingness to collaborate in ending the standoff with China.

Peking also appeared yesterday to be cooling its rhetoric against Taiwan, with state-controlled newspapers toning down the vitriolic attacks on Lee Teng-hui, the Taiwanese President and leader of the ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party who won the election with 54 per cent of the vote.

Nevertheless, in a cautious analysis of the result, the Chinese media claimed victory for Peking's uncompromising stance against what it perceives as Taiwan's push for independence. The official Xinhua news agency said: "During the election, Lee Teng-hui had to declare time and again that he will not seek China's reunification, that he will not pursue 'Taiwan independence', and that after winning the election he will try to improve cross-straits relations." However, one analyst in Peking said that "in effect, China is putting the best face on things".

The Xinhua commentary ignored voter surveys in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, which indicated that China's military aggression had boosted support for Mr Lee. Peking, which accuses him of being a "splittist", was infuriated when he undertook a trip to Cornell University, his American alma mater, last year and angry at the Clinton White House for enabling the visit. The Communist leaders feared that President Lee was raising Taiwan's international profile to a degree that they regarded as unacceptable.

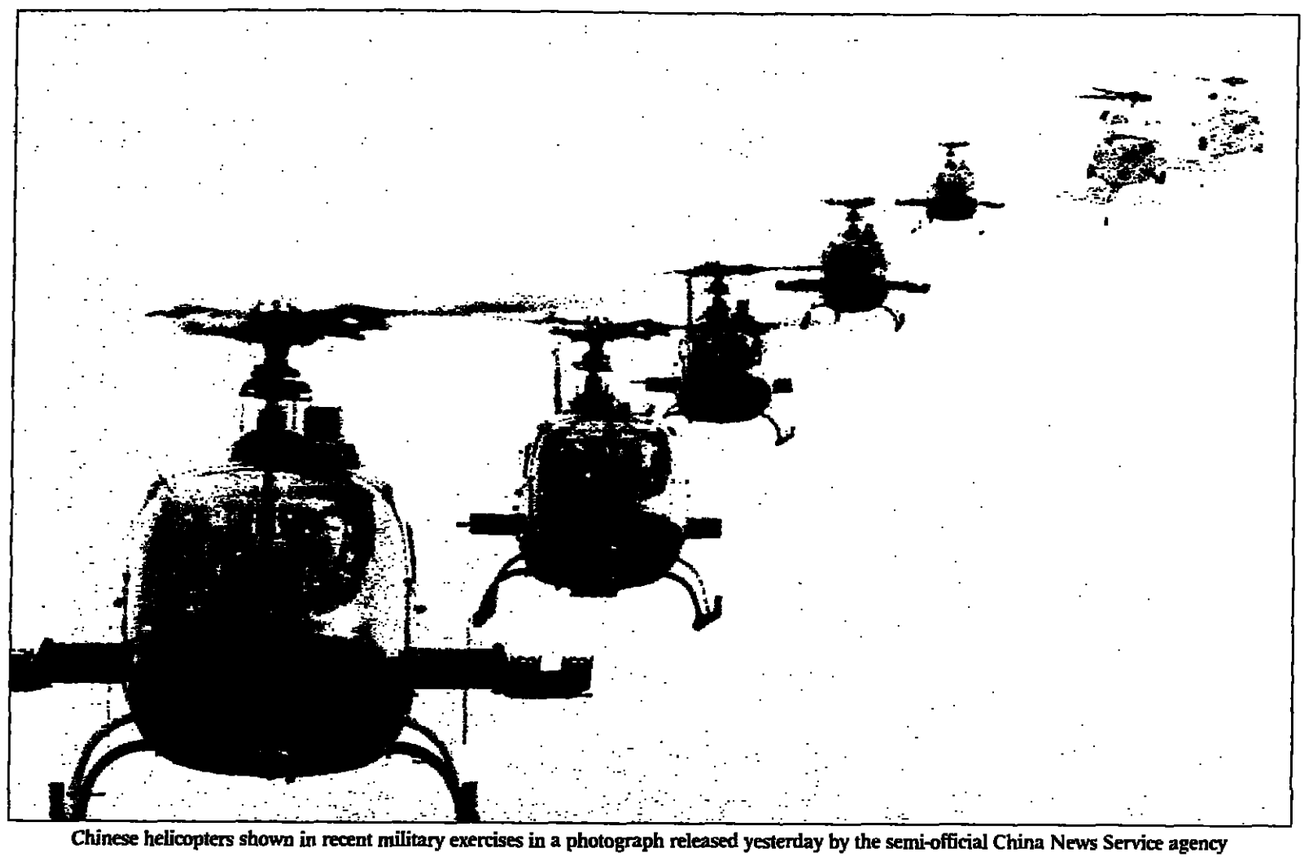
Although two Taiwanese candidates, Lin Yang-kang and Chen Li-an, who ran on an anti-independence ticket, only managed to finish third and fourth in the four-man race, Xinhua took comfort that their combined result of 24.8 per cent was greater than the 21 per cent secured by Peng Ming-min, the staunchest pro-independence candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Peking do not rule out the possibility of the military holding more war games soon, possibly along areas of its coast where the topography resembles that of Taiwan's.

For the moment, however, they believe that the worst may be over, and that China and Taiwan will resume low-level, semi-official dialogue, suspended last year in response to Mr Lee's foreign diplomatic push for recognition of Taiwan. An imminent summit is ruled out because of reservations on both sides.

China continues to maintain that, if Taiwan accepts the principle of eventual reunification, "relations could be eased and we could move on to discuss other things", Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at the weekend. For the present, that is as far as the apparent easing in tensions between the two may reach.

In his regular briefing to journalists today, Mr Shen could reveal Peking's strategy in the post-election era. Few observers in the capital forecast an easy road ahead.



Chinese helicopters shown in recent military exercises in a photograph released yesterday by the semi-official China News Service agency

Taipei baits Communists with offer of unity in four years



Lee: seeks recognition

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

ROAD TO RECONCILIATION

IF PEKING opts for democracy, Taiwan maintains that it is prepared to offer the ultimate goal of reunification with the mainland.

The latest Taiwanese official to state this tenet, which the Communist Chinese leadership will find hard to accept, is James Soong, elected Governor of Taiwan last year. He said yesterday: "We want to tell the Communist Party that China will reunify very soon. Four years from now we can unify. As long as China can make up its mind four years from now to elect the president of all China with all the Chinese in Taiwan — that will be the time of the real reunification of China."

Although Mr Soong, a close ally of President Lee Teng-hui, was reiterating Taipei's long-held view that China can reunify only under a democratic system, it marked the first time that a date had been officially mooted.

But Taiwanese officials know full well that China has made it clear since the brutal crushing of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989 that it does not regard Western-style democracy as an option. For Taiwan also, there are inherent problems regarding the question of reunification. Taiwanese voters, who overwhelmingly backed pro-independence candidates in Saturday's election, will not accept such a timetable as set out by Mr Soong.

The electorate is wary of getting too close to the mainland, especially after the events of the last weeks when Chinese missiles crashed into the seas off Taiwan's shores and the People's Liberation Army staged mock invasions.

What the majority of Taiwanese seek is peaceful co-existence. Post-election opinion polls yesterday showed that almost a third of the respondents back moves towards peace and bilateral agreements governing shipping, trade and easier communications.

They would like to see Taiwan taking its place at international meetings and sports events. In return, they are prepared to forgo United Nations recognition — which President Lee is allegedly trying to secure for a $1 billion (£653 million) contribution. The UN is unlikely to readmit Taiwan since it recognises mainland China.

The Taiwanese would also want their leader to be able to make high-profile visits abroad — like the trip President Lee made to his American alma mater last year, which triggered the present crisis, without affronting mainland China or any other country.

Last week Lien Chan, then Taiwanese Prime Minister, who is now Mr Lee's Vice-President, told journalists that "a peace agreement" might be concluded between the two sides. But he refused to divulge what such an agreement might include.

For the present, it is difficult to imagine Peking's leaders, who must be smarting from the failure of their attempt to intimidate Taiwan's voters into rejecting Mr Lee, taking part in a peace conference with Taiwan at which they demanded anything less than a show of fealty.

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Call by Bossi for breakaway state enrages Italians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

WITH a month to go before the Italian election, Umberto Bossi, the fiery leader of the Northern League, yesterday caused uproar by declaring his aim was a separate state carved out of northern Italy to be called "Padania".

The move was condemned by Left and Right, and caused a breach with his chief lieutenant, Irene Pivetti, the Speaker of parliament.

"A nation is born," Signor Bossi declared at a rally in Pontida, near Milan, to roars of approval from 25,000 followers, waving the medieval standards of Piedmont, Tuscany and Lombardy. Until now, he has always been ambigious about whether he wants outright secession or only a form of regional autonomy. From humble beginnings in the 1980s, Signor Bossi has built skilfully on northern resentment of rule from Rome and union with the poorer South, transforming the League from a marginal protest force to a national movement with 76 seats in parliament.

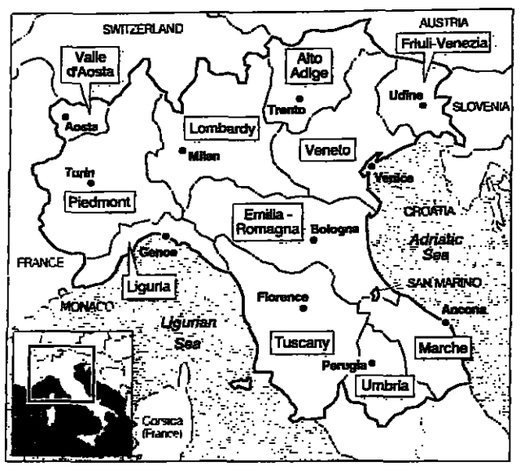
His party was a key partner in the 1994 centre-Right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, whom it brought down by withdrawing.

However, Signora Pivetti said Signor Bossi's proposal for a separate state was a violation of Italy's federal constitution. She left the platform at Pontida, later claiming she had visited the cooks preparing food for the rally. Signor Bossi remarked angrily that anyone who did not wish to join him was "welcome to leave", to which she retorted that Signor Bossi, known for his crude, demagogic style, was becoming more authoritarian than ever. Padania, the ancient Italian term for the Po valley, would contain the most powerful industries of Italy, its best agricultural land, almost all its financial wealth and its greatest cities: Venice, the proposed capital, Turin, Milan, Bologna and Genoa.

The Northern League already holds a regular "parliament" in Mantua, and is stoking a tax revolt against Rome. Romano Prodi and Signor Berlusconi, the mainstream leaders of Left and Right, yesterday acknowledged growing protests over high taxation by holding a televised debate on fiscal policy to coincide with widespread protests by shopkeepers. Shutters came down on shops for two hours yesterday in the latest show of resentment.

However, the chances of Padania joining the other newborn nations of Europe are slim. *La Stampa* said Signor Bossi had hardened his secessionist line to give his movement fresh electoral momentum. The League has refused to make electoral pacts, hoping to bargain its way into the next coalition, but polls suggest that its support has fallen.

The League is increasingly competing on its home ground with the neo-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale, led by the shrewd and polished Gianfranco Fini, who is expected to gain votes next month. Many people in the North, *La Repubblica* said, "say they want secession, but will actually vote for Fini".





Helmut Kohl, who continues to cast a large shadow over German politics, in expansive mood at a meeting with the press yesterday

Poll wins put spring in Kohl's step

The Free Democrats' unexpectedly good showing in local elections may encourage them to believe that now is the time to desert the coalition with the Christian Democrats, ***Roger Boyes*** *writes*

HELMUT KOHL was beaming again yesterday. The irritability of the past month which has sent his aides scurrying for cover, seems to have been banished by the Christian Democrats' gains at the weekend's regional elections.

For the Christian Democrats to pass a stern mid-term test in three of Germany's most difficult regional states was certainly cause for celebration. To send the Social Democrats reeling in the middle of an economic slowdown, with unemployment edging fast towards a new postwar record of 4.5 million — that was a real achievement for the Chancellor.

And surely there could be no greater contribution to a stable future than the strong performance of the Free Democrats, Herr Kohl's junior partners, whose stamina has been ebbing by the day. Herr Kohl's party executive was busily ticking off other positive aspects, the thrashing of the Eurosceptical Social Democrats in Baden Württemberg, for example.

And yet there are whispers of doubt. First, Germany's political system ensures that governments are almost always changed in mid-term. That means now or, conceivably, in 2000 after winning the 1998 election.

The arguments for a switch now have, if anything, been fortified by Sunday's regional elections. For some time the Free Democrats have been losing confidence and direction, the talk of the past six months has been of a grand Social Democrat-Christian Democrat coalition in Bonn, predicated on the collapse of the Free Democrats.

From this week, however, the Free Democrats have bargaining power. The small party could, it is being argued, gain much from dissolving the alliance with Herr Kohl and making common cause with the Social Democrats.

It is not difficult to see how the divorce from the Chancellor could come. Herr Kohl has already announced that there will be "massive spending cuts" and unpopular tax increases. The Free Democrats, in so far as they stand for anything, are militantly against increasing the personal tax burden on Germans.

Yesterday, Herr Kohl seemed to be bursting with strength. But in coalition politics there is always an open question as to whether a bottle is half full, or half empty. There are those in Bonn who view Herr Kohl's Government as more than half empty and at home it has reached the limits of its reforming zeal.

Kohl's future, page 18

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THE TIMES EXAM BUSTERS GCSE

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Chirac argues for European 'social model'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC yesterday insisted that France was on track for economic and monetary union and called for a new "European social model" to harmonise labour and welfare laws within the Union.

"In Paris, as in Bonn, we are convinced that the single currency will be achieved. We will be on time for our rendezvous with monetary Europe," M Chirac wrote in *Libération* yesterday, five days before the inter-governmental conference (IGC) begins in Turin. In a swipe at British, Spanish and Italian businesses that have taken advantage of devaluations against the franc, M Chirac also said that a compulsory exchange rate system should be set up between the euro and the currencies of countries unable to join the single currency in 1999.

"France will present proposals to punish those breaking the necessary common discipline," he wrote.

The French President's call for a "genuine European social model" will not sit well with the British Government, which remains strongly opposed to setting out social rights under the EU.

"This project rests on a renovated European architecture, monetary union and a far stronger endorsement of the public's social and cultural aspirations," M Chirac wrote.

In the run-up to the IGC, the President has come under increasing pressure to define his European views, both from opposition Socialists and within the ruling coalition.

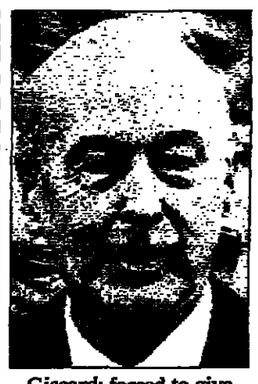
M Chirac's article returned to some of his election campaign themes by placing renewed emphasis on job creation and the need to address social issues in order to build a "Europe that reassures and protects".

The proposals for a "European social model" came days after Philippe Séguin, the parliamentary Speaker, accused the Government of reneging on campaign pledges to make jobs a priority. M Séguin said that, with unemployment at 11.8 per cent, it was "regrettable" that "employment is not the primary objective of public policy".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, has said that a paper outlining proposals on unemployment, immigration and labour relations in Europe would be drawn up this week to be presented at the IGC.

While firmly nailing his colours to the monetary union mast, in other respects M Chirac's article steered a careful middle course between the pro-European and Euro-sceptic wings of his party.

France announced yesterday that its borders with Germany and Spain would be opened in line with the Schengen accord (Ben Macintyre writes). But as the row between Paris and The Hague over "lax" Dutch drugs policy reached new intensity, France said it would retain controls on Benelux frontiers.



Giscard: forced to give way to younger rivals

Giscard to resign as party chief

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE'S only surviving former President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, 70, appeared to be heading grudgingly towards political retirement yesterday, squeezed out by ambitious younger rivals.

After months of equivocation, he was expected to announce last night that he would not seek re-election as head of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the umbrella group comprising five centre-right parties that he founded 18 years ago.

The man who led France between 1974 and 1981 delayed announcing whether he would seek another term until the last moment. But in recent years his popularity has dwindled and two strong candidates, the former Cabinet ministers François Léotard and Alain Madelin, have thrown their hats in the ring.

The party elects a new leader this Sunday in Lyons and M Léotard is widely expected to win.

Rome urges EU to allow flexibility and scrap red tape

FROM ROSEMARY RIGHTER IN VENICE

THE British Government's vision of a more flexible multi-dimensional union will have backing at Turin from an unexpected quarter on Saturday: the Italian presidency.

The first clear indications of the Italian Government's agenda for the inter-governmental conference were set out at an Anglo-Italian seminar in Venice at the weekend by Boris Biancheri-Chiappori, a former Ambassador to Britain who now heads the Italian Foreign Office.

Governments, he said, must be prepared "to conceive a Europe that is different from the one we have been living with", one in which diversity was preserved and red tape kept under far stricter control. Governments should be free, within the general objective of greater European integration, to choose how closely they wanted to co-operate in many areas of policy.

Enlargement of the EU, to which Signor Biancheri gave Italy's unequivocal support, was "unthinkable at the speed required unless we accept differentiation", he said. Equally, it should be possible "for two or more governments to forge particularly close links in particular areas", as they had with the Schengen accord. There was no reason to see such moves as a threat to the cohesion of the Union.

Each country should be free to decide if, how, and when to move forward — whether this was in foreign policy, defence, or social policy. Monetary union set a precedent that could be extended. This would enable early enlargement without putting a brake on countries that wanted to move faster.

Italy's goal for the conference, he said, was to equip Europe for diversity through simplifying and rationalising its laws and procedures. The EU should be more selective about embarking on new policies and directives, and it should treat the decisions which it did take more seriously. Italy hoped that the conference, which Signor Biancheri expected to last about 18 months, would strip down and simplify the Maastricht treaty, and review both the size and the rules on representativeness governing the European Commission.

Significantly, his speech made no reference to the European Parliament, whose powers Germany wishes to see enlarged, and although he did give Italian support to extensions of qualified majority voting, he said that decisions in foreign policy could only be binding on countries that agreed.

Signor Biancheri's speech, which has the official backing of the Italian Government, is a marked departure from the orthodox Italian position. *Corriere della Sera* described it as "a cold shower on the dream of a federal Europe".

In an indirect rebuff to German references to an "inner core" of European states, Signor Biancheri said that it was pointless and damaging to rank countries in A and B categories; not every country would be in the vanguard on everything, and Italy should learn to live with this.

Seconds out for summer

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EVEN changing clocks to summer time has become a matter of conflict in the Middle East, not only between Jews and Arabs, but even between Jews themselves.

The Palestinian Authority, which controls large areas of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, waited a week after the Israeli Government moved its clocks forward one hour before doing the same.

The intervening period was one of farcical confusion with Palestinian, Israeli and international representatives often arriving for meetings at different times.

A new group, calling itself Palestinians in the Defence of Arab Jerusalem, sent an angry letter to Yassir Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, charging United Nations organisations working in east Jerusalem — territory annexed by Israel after the 1967 war — with changing their clocks to Israeli summer time.

"Such an act is considered a political statement on the status of east Jerusalem," the letter said.

Not to be outdone in the use of the clock as a political weapon, some ultra-Orthodox Jewish groups, whose members do not recognise the legitimacy of the Zionist state, also refused to advance the hour towards summer time at the same time as the rest of Israel.

This is neither the time nor the place to buy a PEP.



ARTS 33-35

Who will foot the bill for British dance's brighter future?



LAW 37-39

Michael Howard's plans for tougher jail sentencing



SPORT 44-48

Illingworth clears way for young team manager

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CONTRACTS ON THE LUNCH MENU

Small business 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 26 1996

Insurer agrees £800m deal

Halifax bid wins Clerical Medical

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, has emerged as victor in the auction for Clerical Medical with a deal that values the life assurance mutual at £800 million.

At least 600,000 with-profits policyholders will receive a special bonus that will increase the ultimate value of their policies. For a typical £30,000 with-profit endowment policy that has been in force for 15 years this special bonus will be £2,172.

The bonus will be paid to those who had with-profit policies in force at midnight on March 22, 1996 and which remain in force at midnight on December 31, 1996.

Halifax, which is financing the deal from cash resources, is making a £730 million contribution to the Clerical Medical's with-profit fund and injecting £70 million as shareholders' capital. Of the £730 million, £111 million will make up the special bonus and £160 million will be allocated to increase the ultimate value of the policies when they mature.

The deal came as a surprise to City observers as NatWest had been widely seen as frontrunner. However, analysts said that given Halifax's late entry into life insurance, the deal made sense.

Clerical Medical put itself up for sale last year after a strategic review. Robert Walther, the chief executive, said that "we were concerned that there might come a point in the future where we might become constrained by our lack of capital". He said Clerical Medical and its adviser, Schroders, highlighted a need to invest more freely in equities, which have a greater return than gilts. However, to do so requires a larger solvency ratio. It also recognised the need for additional working capital and the need to demonstrate its strength to "commentators and independent financial advisers".

Mr Walther said the insurer evaluated 40 potential partners. It weeded the number down and examined "a limited number", believed to be six, of indicative bids. These included NatWest and Abbey National. He said Halifax offered the highest price and the best fit for Clerical Medical.

For Halifax the deal is seen as a move to diversify earnings away from mortgages and to position itself as a broadly based financial services provider. It follows hard on the heels of its merger last year with the Leeds, but will be completed before next spring's stock market flotation. Jon Foulds, chairman of Halifax, said the acquisition of Clerical Medical "will enhance earnings and therefore the value of shares to be distributed to members when we become a plc." He said Halifax does not distribute through the independent financial adviser market "and this gap will be filled by the acquisition of Clerical Medical".

Clerical Medical posted letters to its policyholders yesterday. Details of the deal will be spelled out in a circular in May. An extraordinary meeting will be held in June. A High Court hearing to approve the plans is likely in October and completion is expected on December 31.

The insurer has had difficulty identifying how many of its policyholders are eligible to vote and will therefore benefit from the special bonus. It sent out 625,000 letters yesterday, but estimated that it has 600,000 with-profits policies and up to 100,000 more that have a with-profits element should also benefit. That leaves an estimated 300,000 with non-profits policies who will not receive a bonus.

The Clerical Medical brand name will remain and, along with Halifax Financial Services, the company will be renamed Clerical Medical Investment Group. The management team will remain in place. Mr Walther said there will be no job losses as a result of the takeover, but added that the company was in the middle of a review of its businesses which might result in cuts.

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Bonus bonanza for policyholders

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

CLERICAL Medical's with-profits savers could receive additional bonuses up to £4,000 during the life of their policy. Of the £800 million which the Halifax is paying to acquire the investment group, £111 million will be put towards a special reversionary bonus. Three equal extra bonus payments will be paid to with-profits policyholders at the end of December 1997, 1998 and 1999.

A further £160 million will be used to pay a terminal bonus when the policy matures: the sum for each policyholder could be as much, or more, than the special reversionary bonus, but will depend on the size and maturity of the policy.

Clerical Medical has £14 billion of assets under management. The Halifax deal increases Clerical Medical's free assets for investment from £723 million to £1.2 billion.

Clerical Medical does not have any "orphan" funds, amounts in a with-profits life funds beyond what is needed to meet the reasonable expectations of policyholders, because it is a mutual whose assets are wholly owned by its policyholders.

Clerical Medical policyholders are not the first to benefit from the restructuring of the life industry. Legal & General's 1.4 million with-profits policyholders will enjoy a £160 million special bonus when funds are shared.

Six million Prudential policyholders may benefit from a stake of the Pru's "orphan" funds, estimated at between £500 million and £5 billion, which might give them an extra £300 each.

Britannic and Refuge are already discussing similar action. Provident Mutual policyholders received a payout when their fund was acquired by General Accident, and both Royal Insurance and Commercial Union are looking at redistributing their surplus funds.



Jon Foulds of the Halifax, left, with Michael Hamilton, chairman of Clerical Medical



TONY WHITE

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, and Philip Cushing, new chief executive, yesterday

Inchcape head goes as profit dives 92%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHARLES MACKAY resigned as chief executive of Inchcape yesterday after the company revealed a 92 per cent drop in full-year profits and cut its dividend by a third.

The struggling motor car distribution and international trading company also announced it would float or demerge Bain Hogg, its insurance subsidiary, and sell-off its testing division before the end of the year, raising around £500 million.

Mr MacKay is replaced by Philip Cushing, who was previously managing director. Mr Mackay, who will serve as deputy chairman until June, is expected to receive a pay-off in the region of £800,000.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of Inchcape since January, said the group had decided its management structure was "top-heavy". He added: "As a consequence, Charles Mackay agreed to step down."

In the past year, the company has left the FT-SE 100 after the share price collapsed from a high of more than 600p. But the action taken yesterday impressed the City and shares in the company rose 10p to close at 272p.

Inchcape blamed weak demand and margin pressures caused by the high value of the Yen, for the slump in profits from £228.4 million in 1994 to £17.4 million last year. Exceptional charges totalled £130 million, £15 million more than previously revealed. Inchcape made provision for £65 million in restructuring charges including 2,000 job losses.

Inchcape's total dividend falls to 10p (15p). A final of 4p (9p) is payable on July 1.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3681.9	(-25.1)
Yield	4.03%	
FT-SE A All share	1833.81	(-9.70)
Nikkei	20915.44	(+214.52)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5643.86	(+7.22)*
S&P Composite	651.58	(+0.96)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%	(5¼%)
Long Bond	92⁹⁄₃₂	(91⅛)
Yield	6.58%*	(6.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¹⁄₃₂%	(6¹⁄₃₂%)
Life long gilt future (Jun)	105¼	(104²⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5235*	(1.5365)
London:		
$	1.5235	(1.5341)
DM	2.2525	(2.2651)
FFr	7.7135	(7.7740)
SFr	1.8168	(1.8319)
Yen	161.79	(163.85)
£ Index	83.3	(83.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4787*	(1.4763)
FFr	5.0627*	(5.0850)
SFr	1.1925*	(1.1935)
Yen	106.17*	(106.87)
$ Index	95.6	(95.8)

Tokyo close Yen 106.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) $18.40 ($18.40)

GOLD

London close..... $398.15 ($397.50)

* denotes midday trading price

Liquidators for BCCI may recover further $1bn

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

A GROUP of creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit & Commerce International yesterday attempted to queue-jump, demanding in the High Court that their claims be paid in full before other creditors receive a payment.

Four separate creditors — a group of Islamic banks, a group of former employees, the IML, the Luxembourg monetary authority, and a claim on behalf of the Panamanian Government — are demanding that their claims be met before a dividend is paid to other creditors.

If they succeed, their claims could delay payment of a first dividend in the liquidation of BCCI which had been due in May or June.

Michael Crystal, counsel for Deloitte & Touche, the liquidators, told the court that the liquidators had so far recovered $244 million from the US and, when asked by the judge, Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott, how much more they expected, Mr Crystal said: "We think, on a conservative basis, some $350 to $400 million and, in a less conservative scenario, it could be as much as $1 billion."

Part of the recoveries will be put towards increasing the $2 billion pool of money from which BCCI creditors will be paid a dividend.

Mr Crystal spent the first day of the hearing, which is expected to continue until at least Thursday, setting out the background of the case and then began dealing with claims from various Islamic banks.

The liquidators have made net recoveries of $3.3 billion since the collapse.

Maxwell to fight for same judge

LAWYERS for Kevin Maxwell are challenging the appointment of the new judge due to try him later this year on further charges resulting from the collapse of his father's business empire.

Alun Jones, QC, yesterday said that they were seeking judicial review, arguing that it was "unlawful and irrational" for the Lord Chancellor not to let the original trial judge, Lord Justice Phillips, continue with the case.

Kevin Maxwell appeared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday before the new trial judge, Mr Justice Buckley, for a formal preparatory hearing, but because of the pending review application, it became merely a short administrative meeting.

Mr Justice Buckley said that, whatever the outcome, he supported an early hearing of the review application so that it would not interfere with the trial timetable.

Lord Justice Phillips had been dealing with allegations about Robert Maxwell's empire since 1993. His mastery of the issues has impressed defence and prosecution teams, but he has now been promoted to a Lord Justice of Appeal.

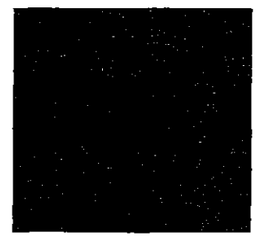
Directors opposed to early move on EMU

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S company directors are strongly opposed to the United Kingdom signing up to a single currency in 1999 — though business across Europe is united in wanting competitiveness to be at the top of the European agenda.

In a survey published yesterday by the Institute of Directors, company directors said they have "major reservations" about a single currency, and believe that Britain should not join the first wave of European member states in economic and monetary union. In a survey of its constituent branches, the Institute of Directors said that four fifths of those questioned said that the United Kingdom should not sign up to a single currency on the planned date of 1999, with "widespread concern" about the loss of control of Britain's monetary policy "inherent" in economic and monetary union.

The Institute of Directors added that a "small minority" was keen that Britain should participate fully in monetary union from the outset, claiming that the Government's current opt-out is harming Britain's ability to influence the issue. British business is divided over Europe, with business bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry maintaining that industry is generally more pro-European than are business bodies such as the free-market Institute of Directors, which says that business remains sceptical. Business opposition



to the EU social chapter is particularly entrenched, the Institute of Directors said, with 94 per cent of those questioned insisting that Britain's social chapter opt-out should be maintained at all costs.

Britain is expected to come under strong pressure to drop the opt-out at the intergovernmental conference (IGC) that starts on Friday. Europe's employers said yesterday that the IGC must focus on creating jobs and growth.

Unice, the European employers body, said that competitiveness must be the central aim of the IGC. Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, which is the UK's member of Unice, said: "The Unice report proves that businesses across Europe share a common goal" of strengthening competitiveness.

But the Unice report endorses the achievement of economic and monetary union, though the CBI argues for options to be kept open.

Robin Geldard, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said yesterday that companies in the UK were still unaware of the impact on them of a single currency.

He said they "still don't know what a single currency would do for their business". They had witnessed the political battles over convergance criteria, but there had been little debate "over how a single currency would affect them", he added.

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John Bruins.

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JOHN CHARCOL

Investors Compensation Scheme declares five firms in default

Adviser crashes with debts of £2m

BY ROBERT MILLER

LGL Securities, a firm of financial advisers that allegedly put money belonging to 250 investors into high-risk Canadian mining and commodity shares, against their wishes, has crashed with debts of more than £2 million.

LGL Securities, which traded from Marlborough, Wiltshire, until last summer, is one of five firms officially declared "in default" yesterday by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). The ICS, is the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud.

It is alleged that LGL Securities acted "negligently" in using private client money to buy shares in mining and commodity stocks on the Vancouver Stock Exchange in a high-risk transaction not sanctioned by investors. It is also alleged that LGL Securities then pledged the shares, which in fact belonged to the investors, to a major Wall Street brokerage firm as security against other share dealings that the company carried out in the US and in other markets, including those in the Far East.

What money has been found in LGL Securities, including $2 million of US stock, has been frozen pending the outcome of legal action over ownership rights between the Wall Street firm and Ernst & Young, joint liquidators to LGL Securities.

The ICS said that the five failed firms accounted for at least 300 investors and £3 million of potential claims. Since 1988, the compensation scheme has paid out £100 million to more than 9,000 investors.

In another ICS case, that of Independent Property Securities, of London Wall, in the City, many investors put in considerably more than the £48,000 ceiling paid out by the compensation scheme. The company, which was authorised by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, sponsored, promoted and managed Enterprise Zone Property Unit Trusts (EZPUTs), which, in spite of tax breaks, are extremely high-risk unregulated investment schemes. The ICS alleges that investors, including one couple who put up £200,000 for turning a listed building in Plymouth into a hotel and conference centre, were not told how risky such ventures where.

The other firms declared in default are Harrison Hood & Co, of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire; Colin Ivor Usherwood, trading as Graham Simmonds Insurance Services, from Folkestone, Kent; and Basegrowth, which traded as Pro-Tex and Pro-Tex Mortgage Services.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Philips shares hit by profit warning

PHILIPS shares plummeted yesterday after Europe's biggest consumer electronics group warned investors that first-quarter earnings would fall sharply. Jan Timmer, president, said net income from normal business operations would be substantially below last year's first quarter, reflecting a weak consumer electronics market in Europe and America and lower demand from the personal computer industry. Philips shares closed 7.20 guilders, or 10.9 per cent, lower at 59 guilders (£23).

Volume on the Amsterdam bourse was more than three times the daily average. Analysts said the announcement of lower first-quarter earnings was not wholly unexpected, but added that Philips seemed to be preparing investors for a fairly hefty decline when it publishes the results on April 24. Philips said it planned to do everything it could to avoid a fall in earnings for the full year. The company made a net profit on normal operations of 544 million guilders in the first quarter of 1995 and 2.68 billion guilders for the year.

Jobs boost for Belfast

NORTHERN IRELAND was cheered yesterday by the announcement of an £8.5 million South Korean investment which promises 230 new jobs close to unemployment black spots of west and south Belfast. The YG-1 Tool Company of Seoul, which makes precision cutting tools for the aerospace and automotive industries, is to move into an existing factory between the depressed Catholic Twinbrook and Poleglass neighbourhoods. Production will begin in September and recruitment will take place over the next three years.

Aircraft order for AIR

AMERICA'S Continental Airlines has placed an order worth up to $260 million for 20 ATR 42-500 aircraft with the three-nation marketing group AIR, which is one-third owned by British Aerospace. The 50-seat planes will be assembled at Toulouse, France, by Aérospatiale and Alenia, its Italian partner. Continental will be the first American customer for the latest version of the regional plane. It has placed eight firm orders, and taken options for 12 more.

T&N verdict expected

A VERDICT is expected today on a High Court appeal by T&N against a £65,000 asbestos-related compensation award relating to its former JW Roberts subsidiary. The award was made in October to June Hancock who suffers from mesothelioma, an asbestos-related disease, and Evelyn Murgereson, widow of Arthur Murgereson, who died of the disease. Both won their claim, in a lower court, that JW Roberts knew of the harmful effects of asbestos dust at its Armley, Leeds, factory.

Lucas wins £650m orders

LUCAS INDUSTRIES has won orders worth £650 million over the next five years to supply leading carmakers with a new range of diesel pumps designed to cut vehicle emissions. The pumps, which use electronics to improve the timing at which fuel is injected into the engine cylinders, will be supplied from the Lucas plant at Blois, in France. They will be fitted to diesel versions of the Ford Mondeo, Fiat Bravo and Brava, and the Renault Mégane.

Bulmer buys Inch's

HP BULMER HOLDINGS, the drinks company, has bought the private Inch's Cider Company, for £23.3 million. Inch's, based in Devon, is the country's third largest cider producer with a 7 per cent market share. Inch's leading brand is White Lightning with an alcohol content of 8.4 per cent, against 5.3 per cent for Strongbow. Bulmer's leading brand. The acquisition will be funded by debt, raising Bulmer's gearing from 30 per cent to more than 70 per cent.

Property firm ahead

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES, the property investment and development company, increased pre-tax profits to £4.7 million in 1995 from £4.1 million in the previous year. Net assets rose to 186.2p a share from 183.5p. Martin Barber, chairman, said the sector's asset performance in 1995 did not fully reflect investment opportunities, but these would become apparent in 1996 and 1997. The total dividend is lifted to 2.5p from 2.1p, with a final 1.7p.

Complaints fuel pressure for gas code of conduct

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PRESSURE yesterday grew for gas companies to implement a marketing code of conduct after complaints against Swebgas, which will supply gas in the competitive market in the South West, reached "unprecedented numbers".

Ofgas, the gas watchdog, will urge the industry to abide by marketing standards after an investigation by Devon trading officers found that 152 customers had complained about aggressive doorstep selling by Swebgas.

The watchdog has a duty to take account of the consumer interest in licensing public gas supply but it ruled out retrospective action against Swebgas, which is a division of the regional electricity company, because the company halted its doorstep campaign after the Gas Consumers Council highlighted complaints.

A spokesman said: "The issue of a voluntary code of practice on marketing is important but we feel that Swebgas took the necessary action while we were granting the licences. So no action against the company will be taken."

Devon County Council has sent its report on the activities of Swebgas to the Office of Fair Trading, which has the power to force companies to refrain from unacceptable marketing. Devon, which is in the vanguard of domestic gas competition, is keen that nationwide standards are drafted after its findings. Steve Butterworth, director of trading standards and consumer protection for the county, said: "We are seeing a completely new phenomenon and it is important that sufficient guidelines are in place."

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "The supply of energy to people's homes is a public service. It must not be devalued by forceful agency salesmen selling on commission at the front door." Establishment of marketing standards will also have important implications for open competition in the electricity market.

Derek Lickorish, director of customer service at Swebgas, said: "Swebgas announced its voluntary decision to permanently stop all unsolicited door-to-door sales in the gas trial area of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset nearly three weeks ago. This decisive action followed an earlier suspension of such sales activity announced on February 15."

Rise and rise of the Pep

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

PERSONAL equity plans (Peps) accounted for more than 80 per cent of total unit trust sales of £564 million in February, as investors hurried to use up their annual Pep allowances before the end of the tax year.

There is now a record £119.6 billion invested in unit trusts, against £89.2 billion a year ago, according to figures released yesterday by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif). The total invested in Peps is £18.6 billion, up from £12 billion in February 1995. There are now 6.83 million unit holders, against 6.19 million a year ago. The numbers have tripled over a decade; in February 1986, there were 2.64 million unit holders.

Total Pep sales in February were £468 million, up by £164 million on the January figure. In February 1995, Pep sales were just £96 million.

Corporate bond Peps, which invest in fixed interest stocks issued by companies, accounted for 35 per cent (£163 million) of sales, another record. After a slow start last summer, the corporate bond Pep sector is now valued at £770 million. Its popularity has been boosted by cuts in building society savers' rates which have forced investors who need an income to look elsewhere.

TONY WHITE



Alistair Fleming steered Forth Ports to better profits despite exceptional costs

Takeovers help Forth Ports

THE acquisition of the ports of Tilbury and Dundee in the final quarter of 1995 helped lift profits at Forth Ports by 10 per cent tax last year.

Profits advanced to £15.3 million from £13.9 million despite exceptional costs of £1.2 million related to the purchase of Tilbury for £121.6 million and of Dundee for £8.5 million. Turnover rose to £47.3 million from £35.7 million, with a £10.16 million contribution from acquisitions.

The privatised ports operator, where Alistair Fleming is chief executive, and which was also successful in a joint venture bid for the purchase of the former naval base at Rosyth, has lifted the total dividend 16 per cent to 11.6p, with an 8p final. Earnings, before exceptional costs, rose 6 per cent to 29.4p a share.

Bill Thomson, chairman, said the priority in 1996 was to fully integrate acquisitions. Current trading had started well, he said. At Tilbury trading will benefit from the new Bell and Geest container business. Inquiries have already been received for port-related work at Rosyth.

Star TV launches Chinese service

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

THE News Corporation yesterday took an important step in developing the mainland Chinese television market.

News Corp's Hong Kong-based Star TV yesterday launched Phoenix TV, a three-channel satellite service in Chinese.

The first Phoenix channel, broadcasting entertainment, will be available from the end of the month. Phoenix will then offer Star Sports, a joint venture with the US-based Liberty Media/Telecommunications International, later this year, along with a drama and movie channel. All three will initially be free to subscribers and will rely on advertising revenue alone.

Star said: "The idea is eventually to launch subscription television services, but that is some way down the track."

News Corp is the ultimate owner of *The Times*.

"We are in no doubt that the time has come," said Gary Davey, chief executive of Star TV, whose facilities in China and the Asian region will be used to help to supply Phoenix with programmes. "We have always hoped that, when the time was right, Star would play a leading role in the development of Chinese-language commercial television."

Star will own 45 per cent of Phoenix, with an equal share being held by Today's Asia Ltd. The privately-owned Hong Kong media concern China Wise International will own 10 per cent. Today's Asia belongs to the Hong Kong garment maker Chan Wing Kee and the Singaporean Chinese Liu Chang Le.

Transmission will be via AsiaSats 1 and 2, which currently deliver Star. Phoenix is looking for a new base in China, but, for the moment, programmes will be built up with the help of Star's existing joint-venture sports production facility in the northern port city of Tianjin, 70 miles from Peking.

British Energy to pay £230m for waste fund

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear generating company that is about to be privatised, is to pay £230 million to start the fund to pay for the disposal of old power stations and waste.

It will put £16 million a year into the fund as part of Government stipulations for the sale of the reactors in the summer. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday. The fund, which was detailed last month by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, will take effect on privatisation.

Mr Lang outlined the exact figures for the fund as he officially opened the flagship of Britain's most modern nuclear plants — Sizewell B, the pressurised-water reactor station in Suffolk.

His official opening of the plant, which is already operating, comes as the Government and British Energy remain locked in talks over the level of debt that the company should take into the private sector.

Bid adviser for Polygram

POLYGRAM, the Anglo-Dutch music and entertainment group, has hired CS First Boston, the Wall Street investment bank, to advise it on its expected bid for MGM/UA, the Hollywood film studio (Eric Reguly writes).

Other potential suitors include Bertelsmann, the German media company, Chargeurs, of French which has a stake in BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, and MGM/UA's management. Industry analysts say MGM/UA should fetch between $1.5 billion and $2.5 billion.

Employment rights cases hit new high

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S high levels of job insecurity are shown today in new evidence from the Government's independent conciliation service which declares it is now handling record numbers of employment rights cases, with a sharp increase in employees taking claims to industrial tribunals.

The Government is to issue soon a draft Bill proposing changes to the system of industrial tribunals, setting out legislative plans for greater use of conciliation before claims go to tribunals.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service says in its annual report that it dealt with record employment rights cases last year, with the total of 91,500, up 15 per cent on 1994 — itself a record year.

But in spite of the Government's plans, Acas says as many as 70 per cent of claims were withdrawn or settled, after conciliation by the service. The service's annual report says that the economic "feel-good" factor remains elusive, in part because of the depressed housing market, "but due mainly to increasing fears over job security across many sectors and most levels of employment."

While unfair dismissal cases fell in 1995 from 45,824 to 40,815, people claiming breaches of employment contract now form 17 per cent of the total caseload — the sharpest rise. Sex discrimination cases were up 9 per cent. Race discrimination cases fell 5 per cent.

Taylor Nelson turnover leaps

TAYLOR NELSON AGB, the market information company, enjoyed a 33 per cent rise in operating profits on continuing activities. The figure grew to £7.4 million last year, after a 30 per cent increase in turnover to £80.1 million.

At the pre-tax level, the group reported profits 5.4 per cent ahead, at £6.5 million, after losses of £1.4 million last time, the result of acquisitions and costs of £600,000, which were incurred in the search for suitable non-European acquisitions.

Earnings were 5 per cent ahead at 2.02p. A final dividend of 0.35p makes a total of 0.7p (0.64p).

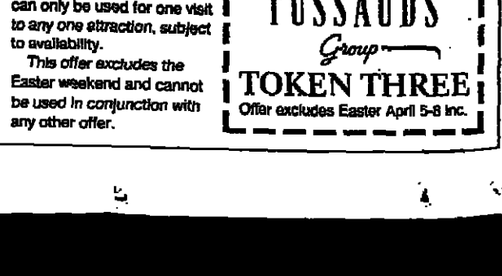
TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.81
Austria Sch	16.89	15.39
Belgium Fr	48.41	45.11
Canada $	2.194	2.034
Cyprus Cyp£	0.752	0.697
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.60	6.95
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	380.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.48	11.48
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1200	4.4700
Italy Lira	2498.00	2343.00
Japan Yen	177.20	161.20
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.680	2.450
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.41	9.61
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	6.55	5.75
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.76	9.96
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.78
Turkey Lira	111478.	103478.
USA $	1.629	1.499

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE TIMES

Take two children FREE to a Tussauds attraction



The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8th inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £26.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £26); Alton Towers (save £26); Madame Tussaud's (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussaud Scenerama, Holland (save £12).

There are white-knuckle rides and haunted woodlands, a grisly Chamber of Horrors and an adventure into space, simulated rock concerts and medieval pageants.

HOW TO APPLY

You need to attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* (no photocopies will be accepted) to a completed entry form which appeared on Saturday and in yesterday's paper. More tokens will be published daily until next next Saturday, March 30, 1996.

Present them at the ticket office of the attraction you visit.

You are entitled to up to two free child entries per party when paying one full adult admission.

The entry form plus tokens can only be used for one visit to any one attraction, subject to availability.

This offer excludes the Easter weekend and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

THE TIMES The TUSSAUDS Group

TOKEN THREE

Offer excludes Easter April 5-8 inc.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities: The Real Israel Press, National - 288660.
The Glastonbury Trust, National - 1012598
Scheme to transfer the assets of the Real Israel Press to the Glastonbury Trust.
Reference: AR/26/(CDT)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the Scheme can be seen for the next month at 2/4 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9JU sending a stamped addressed envelope to Woodfield House, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the reference above.
Dated the 22nd day of March 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHESSBOURNE INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the Manchester Airport Hilton Hotel on Monday 15 April 1996 at 11.30am for the purpose of receiving my report on the Receivership and, if sought fit, appointing a Committee of Creditors, as prescribed by Sections 67 and 68 of the Act.
Iain T Watters, Joint Receiver.
Arthur Andersen 18 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DF.

LEGAL NOTICES

CORNICHE DISTRIBUTION LTD
(In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the Manchester Airport Hilton Hotel on Monday the 15th of April 1996 at 12.00pm for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of the Joint Administrative Receivers, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers. A copy of the report is available, free of charge, on written request to the Joint Administrative Receivers at Arthur Andersen 18 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DF. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if
1. he has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted.
2. there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receiver, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
DATED 21st day of March 1996.
IAIN T WATTERS,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

COVENTRY PARCEL SERVICES LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of Coventry Parcel Services Limited will be held at 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ on Wednesday the 3rd day of April 1996 at 11.00a.m for the purpose provided for in Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, during business hours on the 1st and 2nd days of April 1996 at the offices of Beghe Norton & Partners, 1-2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ.
Dated 21st day of March 1996.
By Order of the Board
G Morgan, DIRECTOR.

IN THE MATTER OF BUILD-ABILITY LIMITED T/A STOBBS DONNELLY AND THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 20 March 1996, I, Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter, Liquidator.
Dated this 20 March 1996

The Stationery Company Ltd (In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the Manchester Airport Hilton Hotel on Monday the 15th of April 1996 at 11.00am for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of the Joint Administrative Receivers, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers. A copy of the report is available, free of charge, on written request to the Joint Administrative Receivers at: Arthur Andersen 18 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DF. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if
1. he has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted.
2. there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receiver, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
DATED 21st day of March 1996
Iain T Watters,
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

☐ Determination wins day in Clerical Medical battle ☐ Euro out of favour with business ☐ Tough decisions at Inchcape

Halifax beats careful NatWest

☐ THE most intriguing question being asked yesterday after Halifax beat off rivals to win the prize of paying £800 million for Clerical Medical was why it reflected so well on NatWest.

NatWest had been widely seen as front-runner for Clerical Medical. The two know each other of old. When NatWest Life was formed three-and-a-half years ago Clerical Medical took 7.5 per cent with an £11.25 million investment and agreed to administer life funds on behalf of NatWest Life. NatWest is now thought highly likely to take up its option to buy in the stake.

Abbey National was seen to be the stalking horse, to push up the price to be paid by NatWest. The bank, however, has made it clear over the past months that it is not prepared to pay high prices for anything, no matter how impressive the business or how good the fit. The market still expects NatWest to do a deal — there are other life businesses up for sale. The early rise in its shares reflects its unwillingness to pay over the odds.

And, at the end of the day, the Halifax was the more determined. Its price was the highest in a close auction between six bidders whose price range was between £750 million and £800 million.

After last year's merger with the Leeds, a large insurance acquisition to be completed before the end of this year and a flotation planned for the spring, the Halifax is looking much more impressive an organisation — and certainly more commercial — than of old.

The Clerical Medical deal all makes sense for Halifax. It is better for the society to do this sort of deal before next spring's flotation. Its earnings were not in any sense diversified. It was late away from the starter's gun in setting up a life assurance business. This deal diversifies earnings and gives it a substantial market share which it did not have before. It looks overcapitalised, so to get some of its acquisitions completed before flotation is good news.

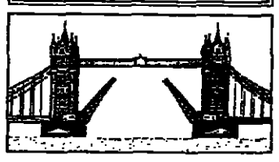
In many ways Halifax is a better parent for Clerical Medical than NatWest would have been. The Clerical Medical brand name is all the more important to Halifax because the society has no with-profits business of its own.

There are very few overlaps. The only obvious one is Clerical Medical's 130-strong direct sales force. This must be one of the subjects of the strategic review that has been on-going since October last year. There is no logic in keeping it and it seems quite likely that this sales force will be merged with Halifax's own branch-based direct sales team.

Clerical Medical will be well-placed to give a little extra help to the Halifax as it develops a with-profits type policy (obviously without the rights of ownership that such a policy held with a life mutual entails). It should help to give the Halifax a fine start when it is floated and goes straight into the FT-SE as the second or third largest bank next year.

No taste for an entrée of Emu

☐ COULD Emu be Britain's best substitute for beef? Not according to business, which should, supposedly, be aching for sterling to join a single currency. The CBI found half its members dead against. So it is little surprise that a branch consultation by the Institute of Directors found four fifths of respondents against joining the euro bloc from the start.



The beef débâcle is a reminder that national economic shocks did not end with the re-unification of Germany. Yet they are harder to deal with unless the regional economy concerned can allow its exchange rate to adjust.

As Britons are repeatedly reminded, however, the European currency project will not be based on economic tests, any more than the UK government's reaction to beef bans. In consequence, the euro promises to be an odd and messy currency.

Unless the Bundesbank backs a pre-1999 dash for growth with a discount rate cut on Thursday, joiners should be suffering from Maastricht deflation and will want to keep borrowings up to the limit thereafter. Nor is it an accident that members with no chance of making the start are among the most enthusiastic. The euro will become their main unofficial currency, causing hair to be torn out at the Frankfurt HQ. After a euphoric start, the euro might be cosily weak.

For business, however, the clincher might be the temptation for Chancellors to interfere more if they can no longer pretend to run the economy via a monthly meeting with the Governor.

Friendship second

☐ IT DID not take Sir Colin Marshall long to put duty before long-term friendship. He took over as non-executive chairman of Inchcape, the beleaguered motors and insurance group, in January, and yesterday his hand was on the dagger that dispatched Charles Mackay, his chief executive, whom he has known for a lot longer than Inchcape.

When Sir Colin joined the board as a non-exec in November, it could have been an all-too-cosy example of City networking. It was not Mackay, however, who has been chief executive since 1991, who had introduced the British Airways chairman to his company. Outside headhunters had been taken on to find someone tough enough to tackle the problems at the company.

Mackay and Marshall go back a long way. They first sat around the same board table at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank when Mackay was on the Hongkong and Shanghai board and Sir Colin was on the board of Midland. They then both served on the Hongkong and Shanghai board, and came to know each other better as Mackay served as a non-executive director at BA when Sir Colin was chief executive. Memories of convivial meals shared, factfinding tours enjoyed and difficult joint decisions came second to the shareholders. They have had a rough ride at Inchcape and deserved better, as do the 48,000 employees, who have faced uncertainty and job losses as the company failed to find its way.

Sir Colin, no stranger to hard decisions, is well aware of the flak that non-execs receive and deserve when they protect the interests of their mates ahead of their legal responsibilities towards the shareholders. After every corporate disaster, the cry goes up: "Who were the non-execs and why didn't they stop it happening?" Philip Cushing, who has taken over from Mackay, has been warned.

Safety first

☐ SINCE the 1987 stock market crash, most small investors have been risk averse, preferring the meagre returns of building society accounts and insurance company bonds. They also put their trust in the financial advisers who were governed by the Financial Services Act, which came into operation soon after Black Monday. News yesterday of the failure of several companies who put their investors into dangerous Canadian mining stocks and an extremely risky property investment without revealing too many details of the risks involved shows that the system just about works. Five companies were officially declared in default. Investors will now get up to £48,000 of their money back. In most cases this will mean little loss. Larger investors probably ought to do a little more research and put less trust in the market place.

Alexon returns to profit

Alexon, the clothing retailer, which includes the Ann Harvey, Kaliko and Dash chains, made a £3 million pre-tax profit (£3.7 million loss) in 1995.

The company, which trimmed net debt from £11.6 million to £6.8 million, passed on its dividend.

Last year Alexon won a two-year breathing space from its banks and suspended payments of its preference shares. It last paid a dividend on ordinary shares in 1993.

Scotia down

Scotia Holdings, the emerging drugs company, yesterday reported a pre-tax operating loss of £11.8 million, or 16.7p per share, in the year to December 31, against a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million, or 5.7p.

Page double

Michael Page Group, the recruitment company, recorded pre-tax profits of £17.74 million (£8.49 million) last year. Earnings rose to 18.39p (9.51p). The total dividend is 5p (3p), with a 3.9p final. Shares rose 14p to 200p.

How in black

How Group, the engineering services company,earned profits of £1.2 million before tax (£2.85 million loss) in 1995. Earnings were 2.7p (6.97p loss). The total dividend rises to 1.125p a share from (0.75p), with a 0.75p final. Shares held at 38p.

Vero advance

Vero Group, the supplier of racks and enclosures for the telecoms and electronics industry, lifted pre-tax profits to £8.1 million (£6.6 million) on turnover that rose to £97.2 million (£78.7 million). Earnings were 12.8p. There is no dividend.

Securicor revamp intended to aid Cellnet stake sale

BY ERIC REGULY

SECURICOR GROUP, the security and telecommunications company, yesterday announced plans to simplify its corporate structure by merging with Security Services, its 51 per cent owned subsidiary. The deal was partly designed to ensure the snag-free sale of the two companies' stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone network.

Under the restructuring, existing shareholders of Securicor Group and Security Services will swap their shares for shares in a new company, to be called Securicor PLC. Securicor Group shareholders will receive 6.711 shares in the new company, while the holders of the "A" non-voting shares will receive 3.835 new shares. Security Services shareholders will receive 3.846 new shares.

When the transaction is completed, Securicor will own 100 per cent of Security Services and all investors will hold shares at the parent level only.

Securicor said that the current two-tier structure was unwieldy. Christopher Shirtcliffe, finance director, said: "This restructuring will simplify the group's management. We'll have one less listed entity."

He said that the new capital structure should increase liquidity and make future financings easier. The minority shareholders of Security Services should benefit because they will no longer hold an investment in a company with a controlling shareholder.

Mr Shirtcliffe said that Securicor was being careful to ensure that the restructuring would preserve all the tax clearances obtained on the proposed sale of the 40 per cent interest in Cellnet held by Securicor and Security Services. Securicor PLC will now hold that stake directly, with BT holding the rest.

The clearances meant that Cellnet, the second-largest mobile phone company, could be sold without triggering capital gains tax as long as most of the payment is not taken in cash.

Securicor and Security Services last year agreed in principle to sell to BT their 40 per cent Cellnet stake, which accounted for most of their operating profits, but the Government blocked the effort. It appeared that it did not want to give BT, the dominant phone company, the chance to become the dominant mobile phone operator as well.

Securicor said that other companies have expressed interest in buying the Cellnet stake, although no talks are taking place. The market's belief that Cellnet is growing in value has been lifting Securicor shares since January. They closed at £10.55, up 67p.

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SIMON WALKER



David Heywood, head of Nestor-BNA, the temporary nurse provider, made 53 per cent more yearly pre-tax profit at £6.3 million to December 31. A 2p final makes an unchanged 3.15p.

Housing sign cheers Travis Perkins chief

TRAVIS PERKINS, supplier of timber and building materials, expects an upturn in trading later this year after signs that the housing market is starting to revive.

Tony Travis, chairman, said that trading in the first two months of 1996 remained subdued, but he was optimistic after interest rate cuts.

Pre-tax profits for 1995 eased to £36.5 million (£38.9 million). Operating profits rose 4.9 per cent, to £36.1 million, but property disposals fell. A 6.5p final dividend makes 9.3p, up from 9p.

Morgan Crucible surges to £85m

BY CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Morgan Crucible, the engineering and industrial materials group, dipped 3 per cent yesterday despite healthy growth in profits and earnings last year.

Strong demand in all its key markets, price increases and a 1.5 point gain in operating margin helped to raise pre-tax profit by 17 per cent to £85 million, but profit-taking and cautious comment from the company over sales growth and the order book in the current year caused the share price to slide.

Morgan's sales grew by almost 15 per cent from continuing businesses, with operating profits up from £79 million to £101 million. Some 88 per cent of turnover now originates from outside the UK and Morgan reported strong organic growth in the US, mainland Europe and the UK.

Operating margins rose from 10.5 per cent to 12 per cent and Morgan is targeting margins of 15 per cent in the medium term. The full-year dividend is 13.8p, up 5 per cent on the previous year.

Tempus, page 24

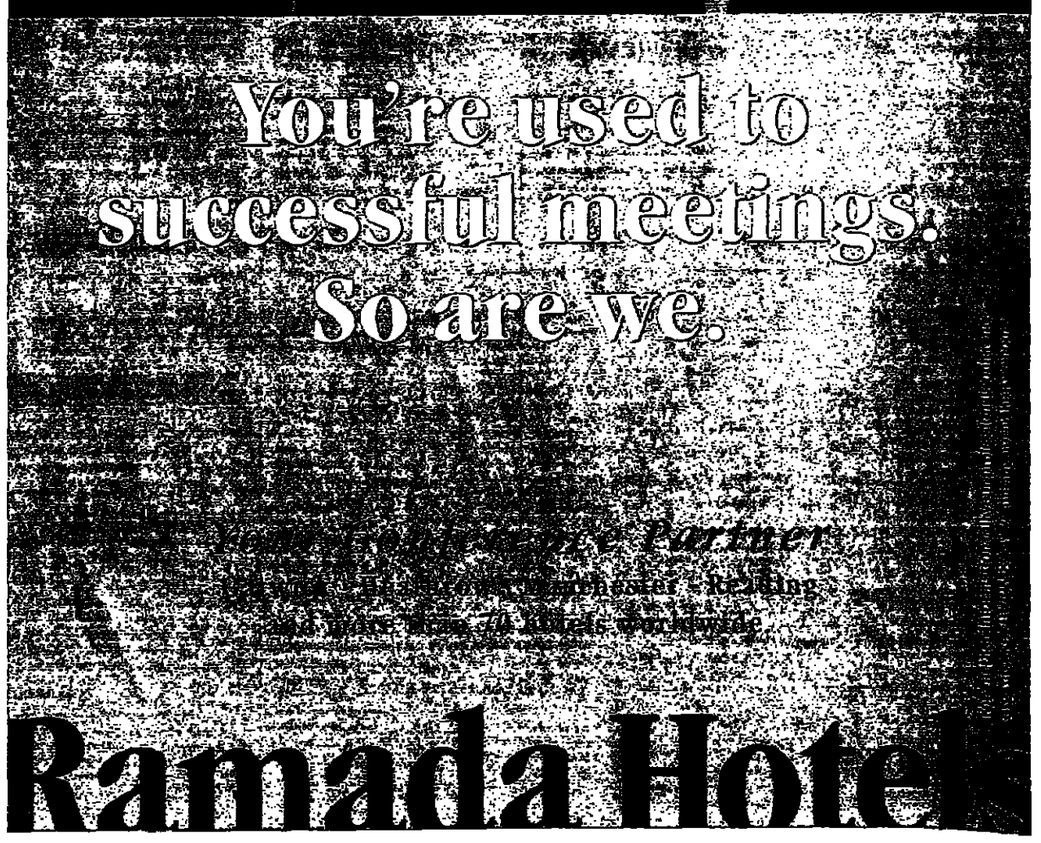
T&S lifts profits by 12%

T&S STORES, the convenience store operator and newsagent with 820 outlets, saw profits rise 12 per cent in 1995 and said it had made an encouraging start to this year.

Pre-tax profits of £15.5 million compared with £13.9 million in 1994 and followed an 8 per cent rise in turnover to £445 million. The strongest increase was in the Dillons C' convenience stores, which contributed profits of £7.1 million, up 37 per cent.

Earnings were 16.13p a share (14.53p). A final dividend of 4.3p lifts the total to 7.1p (6.5p).





NOTICE OF MEETING

Clerical Medical
INVESTMENT GROUP

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 172nd Annual General Meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society will be held at 15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LQ on Wednesday, 17 April 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

1 To receive the Directors' Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995.
2 To receive a Report on the actuarial valuation of the Society's liabilities as at 31 December 1995, made for the purpose of a distribution of profit.
3 To re-elect Directors and to fix their remuneration.
4 To re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
5 To transact any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting.
6 To transact the following special business:
To confirm the appointment of Mr Adrian Saunders as Appointed Actuary under Section 19 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Any member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him.

A proxy need not be a member of the Society.

Any instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the undermentioned address not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Meeting.

By order of the Board
S A M Fogarty
Secretary

15 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LQ
22 March 1996

Issued by Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO

Cliveden to seek share quotation

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE company that runs the hotel at the historic Cliveden site in Berkshire is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange next month. Cliveden has been home to three dukes and three generations of the Astor family since 1666.

The Cliveden company aims to build up a portfolio of what it describes as distinctive hotels within five years which, it says, will reflect the standards of Cliveden and will benefit in marketing terms from its client base and international reputation.

The Cliveden company's first expansion was the acquisition of a small central London hotel, the Draycott, in October 1995. It is to be relaunched as the Cliveden Town House in May. The Cliveden hotel achieved operating profits of £1.4 million on sales of £6.4 million to end-October 1995. Sponsor and stockbroker to the issue will be Beeson Gregory.

Simon in control of gearing

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SIMON ENGINEERING, the fire engine and access equipment specialist, returned to the dividend list yesterday after a three-year rescue mission from gearing of 264 per cent. It is now 95 per cent.

The company, which has kept up a steady stream of disposals and shored up resources with a £52 million rights issue since the present management took charge in 1993, also declared itself in the market for an acquisition.

Maurice Dixon, chief executive, said the purchase would be in the company's core engineering area and would help to deliver growth.

Simon returned to profit for the first time in three years, making £8.4 million for the year to December 31. Last year, it lost £18 million, and a year earlier the loss was £160.3 million. The final dividend, payable on a date to be confirmed, was set at 0.64p.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Talk of buy-back puts Tomkins in the frame

SPECULATION that Greg Hutchings, chairman of **Tomkins**, the conglomerate, may be about to spend millions of pounds to benefit shareholders, produced a flurry of speculative buying in the shares during late trading.

By the close of business, almost eight million shares had changed hands with the price firming 1½p to 257½p at which Tomkins boasts a stock market value of more than £3 billion.

Word is the group, which includes Ranks Hovis McDougall and Smith and Wesson guns, is ready to propose spending millions of pounds on a share buy-back to enhance earnings.

Tomkins appears to be everyone's favourite at present. Only last week BZW is believed to have picked up a large parcel of shares, with rival Kleinwort Benson yesterday telling clients to buy. The chartists also claim the shares are a chart break-out and should be bought.

Elsewhere, the rest of the market was suffering from its own version of "mad cow" disease. However, it could be argued that institutional investors were acting more like sheep. "One decides to stay on the sidelines and they all choose to stay on the sidelines", said one broker.

Prices drifted on lack of interest throughout the day and not even a late rally by the gilt market could stop the rot. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index dipped back below the 3,700 level. The index finished near its low for the day, down 25.1 at 3,681.9. Investor apathy was reflected in the levels of turnover with just 690 million shares traded.

The mounting concern over the effects of BSE has begun taking its toll on the big food producers. **Northern Foods** was down 16p at 183p, **Unigate** 30p off at 407p, **Sentry Farming** 14p lower at 159p and **Robert Wiseman** 25p cheaper at 137p. By contrast Matthews, the turkey producer, rose 6p to 122p. Dealers fear that wiping out dairy herds will force milk producers to import dearer milk from aboard. **Harrison & Crosfield**, the animal feed merchant, was another casualty, losing 11p at 154p.

Among leaders, renewed American buying lifted **Ladbroke** ½p to 193p. Word in the marketplace suggests the long-awaited bid is likely to materialise in the next few days. The Hilton Hotel Group in the US and **Bass**, 3p easier at 747p, continue to be tipped as possible predators.



Greg Hutchings may spend millions on share buy-back

Thorn EMI touched £16.90 before ending the session 15p dearer at £16.83 as talk of a bid from Time Warner in the US was revived. The speculators are suggesting a bid of £22 a share, valuing the entire company at almost £10 billion. of a bid. **Next**, up 3p at 467p, and **Moss Bros**, unchanged at 705p, are tipped as possible suitors.

The biggest move on the day was seen in **Securicor** where the "A" shares soared 67p to £10.55 and the ordinary 200p to £18.05 after the company announced details of a large restructuring and the merging with its associate, Security Services. **Security Services** rose 65p to £10.50.

Takeover favourite **East Midlands Electricity**, rose 6p to 615p after announcing a further cut of 2.7 per cent in the price of electricity for domestic customers. The group says it takes the cut in real terms to 16 per cent over the past four years.

It looks as though the worst may be over at **Inchcape**, the international trader and services group, with the price rising 10p to 272p despite, as expected, a sharp drop in profits and a cut in the dividend.

Pre-tax profits were down from £228.4 million to £17.4 million. The figures were also accompanied by the departure of Charles Mackay, chief executive.

The new chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, intends to slim downthe group and is considering the options for demerging Bain Hogg, its insurance arm.

Over on AIM, **Firecrest** was a weak market, losing 32p at 90p after announcing details of a placing and open offer at 50p a share to raise £1.5 million. The money will be used to finance a number of projects.

First Information Group began trading at a healthy premium. Placed at 165p by Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, the shares opened at 183p before ending the session at 181p, a premium of 16p.

Northern Leisure, the bowling and nightclub operator, firmed 2p to 109p as a large line of 597,500 shares went through the market a premium to the ruling price.

They were sold at 110p, 4p above the current market price.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices recovered from a hesitant start to close with some useful gains on the day in late trading. Investors stuck to the sidelines first thing, worried by the worsening "mad cow" crisis and its potential effect on the economy. But some words of reassurance from Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, in the House of Commons were enough to put the market better before the close.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £19/32 higher at £105¼ as the total number of contracts reached 41,000.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £19/32 up at £97 1/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 hardened £9/32 to £102 11/32.

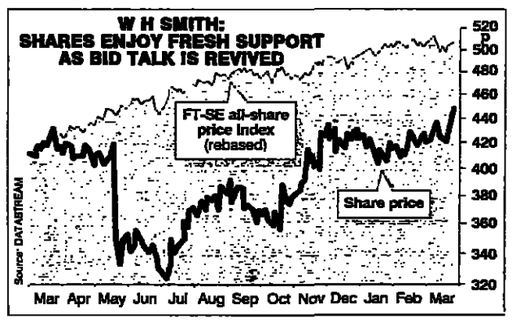
☐ **NEW YORK**: Shares on Wall Street drew strength from a bond rally, while high-technology shares slumped on fears that the sector may feel the brunt of a slowdown in capital spending. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 7.22 points at 5,643.86.

WH Smith held steady at 447p in a falling market, with more than 2 million shares traded. The price has climbed steadily from 350p since October, with reports last week suggesting the group is ready to dispose of its distribution business. WH Smith feels threatened, say speculators, who expect a bid from Asda.

P&O dipped 6p to 514p ahead of full-year figures today which should show a small dip in profits on last year's £341 million.

There is talk that the results may be accompanied by disposal news.

Shares of **Austin Reed** continue to trade just a shade below their high of 234p at 229p amid claims that it could soon be on the receiving end



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5643.86 (+7.22)
S&P Composite 651.56 (+0.96)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20915.44 (+214.52)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11111.76 (+85.03)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 527.48 (-0.72)

Sydney:
AO 2255.4 (+10.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2510.32 (+6.38)

Singapore:
Straits 2405.60 (+6.66)

Brussels:
General 8697.72 (-13.84)

Paris:
CAC-40 3003.83 (+29.48)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 774.00 (+3.80)

London:

FT 30	2755.8 (-13.3)
FT 100	3681.9 (-25.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	4296.5 (-7.8)
FT-SE-A 350	1854.0 (-10.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1622.07 (+9.08)
FT A All-Share	1833.81 (-9.70)
FT Non Financials	1952.14 (-9.15)
FT Fixed Interest	110.86 (same)
FT Govt Secs	92.30 (+0.15)
Bargains	44461
SEAQ Volume	690.9m
USM (Datastrm)	208.95 (-0.90)
US$	1.5240 (-0.0108)
German Mark	2.2517 (-0.0129)
Exchange Index	83.3 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1882
£:SDR	1.0426
RPI 150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX 150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	517	...	
Clubhaus Wts	2¼	–	¼
First Infrmtn (165)	181	...	
Freepages (12)	14½	...	
Fulmar (154)	188	...	
IOC Intl	123	–	5
Int Btech Tst C (100)	100	...	
Life Off Opps (50)	52	...	
M & G Equity Cap	22¼	–	¼
M & G Equity Div	90	...	
M & G Equity Inc	44	...	
Macdonald Htl (145)	191	...	
Marine & Merc (125)	125	...	
New Asia Fund	10¾	...	
New Asia Fund Wts	2¼	...	
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500)	510	+	1
Primary Hlth (100)	103	...	
Saracen Value C	93	–	4
Schroder UK G Uts	254½	–	1
Silver Shield (3)	3¼	...	
Stadium Group (120)	137	...	
Streamline (180)	175	...	
Triad Group (135)	183	+	2
Visual Action (185)	253	...	
Western Select Wts	5	...	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md Vckr (460)	89	–	1
GWR Cv UL 96/01	28	...	

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Ayrshire Metal	148p (+15p)
Manchester United	286p (+28p)
Garton Eng	209p (+20p)
Michael Page	205p (+19p)
Shire Pharms	197p (+12p)
Courts Furnish	811p (+33p)
Inchcape	272p (+10p)

FALLS:

Firecrest	90p (-32p)
S Daniels	40p (-10p)
Tay Homes	131p (-14p)
Sentry Farm	159p (-14p)
Northern Foods	183p (-16p)
Harrison Cross	154p (-11p)
Carrs Milling	318p (-13p)
Dalgety	424p (-14p)
Filtronic Com	375p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Testing time at Inchcape

INCHCAPE'S decision to own fewer businesses is reminiscent of the procedure known as "triage" used by medics in front-line army hospitals. Those wounded but likely to benefit most from immediate surgery are treated first. The rest have to take their chances. Unfortunately, Inchcape's financial triage has been muddled with its desire to fit in with the stock market fashion for focus. Having decided that Inchcape is best sold as an international distribution group, perfectly decent businesses earning decent returns are to be ejected.

The sale of Bain Hogg makes sense, although the failure to find a trade buyer puts a question mark over the likely flotation value. Less easy to understand is the decision to dump Testing Services, the certification business that raised its profits by almost a third last year while increasing its operating margin.

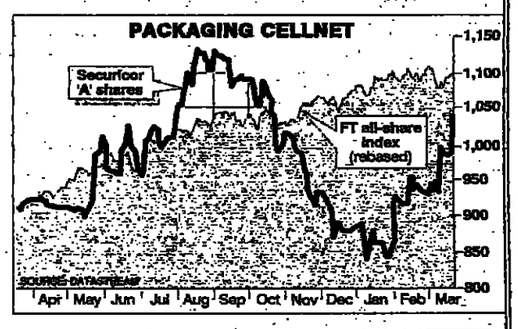
Inchcape wants to reinvest the proceeds of sale in distribution but the removal Bain Hogg and Testing will leave large holes in the profit and loss account and Inchcape will be hard pressed to achieve in distribution the sort of return on assets being earned by Testing. Inchcape is working hard with Toyota to restore margins to its motor business but the days when Japanese car manufacturers could wipe the floor against the inefficient competition are over.

Inchcape will burn up a lot of cash in restructuring costs and the worry is that the sale proceeds will fill holes rather than be returned to shareholders. At the end of the day, investors would rather have profits than focus.

Securicor

SECURICOR will be glad to be rid of Cellnet. Few companies have seen the price of their shares move on market estimates of the flotation value of a rival company and one that has yet to make a profit. But Orange is only adding to considerable hype over mobile telephony. Securicor and Security Services, its 51 per cent-owned subsidiary, went to great lengths to explain that their proposed merger would preserve tax clearances obtained last year when they tried to sell their joint 40 per cent stake in Cellnet to BT, which owns the rest. Although Securicor insists that it is in talks with no one, including BT, about reviving the sale, it noted that potential bidders have come knocking. Shareholders should encourage the disposal effort.

The Orange share sale, to be priced tomorrow, is hugely oversubscribed and its anticipated success has aided the recovery of Securicor. But there are already signs that the days of unfettered growth are over. Cellnet and Vodafone, the leaders, have recently dropped their prices in an effort to reign in the upstart Orange and Mercury One-2-One. A price and marketing war looks imminent. The Government will not allow BT to buy Securicor's Cellnet stake, but Securicor would be foolish to wait several years until the businessmen's change their mind. While the mobile-phone industry is still hot, it should quickly find a buyer that is acceptable to BT and get out.



Morgan Crucible

THE sell-off in Morgan Crucible shares was a mean reaction to a company that has a better chance than many of delivering growth this year.

True, Morgan will be unlikely to deliver anything like last year's 22 per cent gain in earnings in an environment of slower economic growth. But an increase at half that rate should be easily achievable and well ahead of forecast growth rates for the market as a whole.

Morgan's strength is its diversity. No industry dominates its customer base; the automotive sector, one of the largest, accounts for only about 8 per cent of sales but the company also supplies refractory materials for the petrochemical industry as well as ceramics for medical and electronic applications.

Materials for new products such as safety airbags for cars and heat-shields for catalytic converters are driving growth at one level. At the same time, Morgan is making investments in emerging markets like China to produce low-tech products such as carbon brushes and refractory materials.

The investments are small and the cash returns somewhat dubious at this stage but Morgan has already secured about a fifth of the Chinese market for carbon brushes. Plans are afoot for a joint venture producing ceramic insulators in a country with plans for thousands of miles of power lines. Yesterday's sellers leave the door open to buy Morgan, a stock cheaper than weaker companies in the engineering sector.

Simon Eng.

SIMON, the name adorning many fire engines, has come to the company's rescue — just in time. The specialist engineer, which has struggled under a mountain of debt, pledged three years ago when the current management took the wheel, that it would be profitable by 1995 and return to the dividend list. So it has proved after a string of disposals and the filip of a rights issue.

Shareholders, who saw gearing leap to 264 per cent, provided salvation with their own cash but their company can now begin to look towards growth. With gearing at 95 per cent, Simon, which is now tucked neatly into three divisions, feels confident enough to talk about acquisitions. But the group still has a lot to prove. Surviving a near-death experience is one thing, but achieving sensible returns in competitive engineering markets is another.

But Simon's position as a market leader in many of its honed-down operations, a robust order book and a good geographical spread gives some grounds for optimism.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	950-940	May	986-985
May	919-909	Jul	unq
Jul	930-929	Sep	... ...
Sep	949-948	Dec	... ...
Dec	958-956		
Mar	975-974	Volume: 6712	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2045-2040	Nov	1908-1807
May	1910-1909	Jan	1789-1787
Jul	1851-1850	Mar	1765-1750
Sep	1830-1829	Volume: 2110	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	326.0-25.0
Spot: 403.5		Mar	318.5-19.1
May	397.0-96.5	May	315.5-15.1
Aug	373.7-73.2	Aug	unq
Oct	336.5-35.0	Volume: 1184	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average livestock prices at representative markets on March 27

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	110.29	163.54	94.38
(+/-)	+3.85	+15.96	-25.90
Eng/Wales:	110.29	164.17	93.20
(+/-)	+3.85	+16.68	-29.02
(%)	+3.6	+11.0	-51.0
Scotland:	unq	161.26	104.24
(+/-)	... ...	+13.45	-10.01
(%)	... ...	-29.0	-67.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	21.20	-0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	19.60	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.40	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.70	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.30	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 201 (n/c)	O: 203 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	200 (+1)	202 (+1)
Non EEC 1% Apr	193 (-3)	195 (-3)
Non EEC 1% May	175 (n/c)	181 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (n/c)	109 (n/c)
Naphtha	180 (+2)	182 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	184.75-85.00	Jul	159.25-59.50
May	170.50-70.75	Aug	157.75-58.00
Jun	163.50-63.75	Vol: 12357	

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.66-19.69	Aug	17.27-17.29
Jun	18.45 BID	Sep	17.00-17.02
Jul	17.68 BID	Vol: 41058	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	121.60	May	108.50
Jul	123.00	Sep	105.95
Sep	110.15	Nov	107.20
Nov	111.35	Jan	110.00
Jan	113.25	Mar	111.50
Volume: 354		Volume: 41	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	160.0	169.0
May	173.0	173.0
Jun	unq	225.0
Volume: 159		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 104.75-105.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1435	1435	1435
Apr 96	1520	1505	1512
May 96	1449	1447	1447
Jul 96	1330	1325	1325
Vol: 160 lots		Open Interest: 5217	
		Index 1425 +3	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mths:	Vol:
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	2515.0-25.0	2502.0-25.0	132425
Lead (£/tonne)	622.00-623.00	597.00-598.00	32127.5
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (£/tonne)	1063.0-1063.5	1087.0-1087.5	30900
Tin (£/tonne)	6335.0-6345.0	6365.0-6370.0	2760
Aluminium Hi Gde (£/tonne)	1636.0-1636.5	1660.0-1661.0	154125
Nickel (£/tonne)	8115.0-8120.0	8215.0-8225.0	6420

LIFFE OPTIONS

FT-SE INDEX (*6811)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Apr	131	90	57	31	13	5
May	153	116	85	56	37	22
Jun	174	139	108	81	58	41
Jul	195	162	131	104	80	60
Dec	–	229	–	172	–	123
Puts						
Apr	13	33	80	65	98	140
May	31	66	103	87	116	152
Jun	50	85	103	107	133	167
Jul	50	74	93	116	143	173
Dec	–	118	–	162	–	214

Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Allied Dom	46	38½	44	5¾	10	12
(*496)	500	9	19	32	31	36½
Argyll	300	10½	18	23½	3¾	14
(*308)	330	0½	6	11½	24	34
ASDA	100	6	10	12½	1	3½
(*105)	110	1	5½	8	6	9½
Boots	550	52	59½	65½	3	12
(*599)	600	12	24½	54	10	26
Br Airways	500	35	45	59½	1½	12
(*532)	550	4½	16	25	21½	35½
BP	550	14½	27½	30	6½	17
(*559)	600	1	8	15½	44	48½
Br Steel	180	18	23	24½	0½	6½
(*198)	200	4½	10½	12½	6½	15½
C & W	460	31½	43½	55½	4½	14
(*487)	500	9½	24½	37½	19½	34½
CU	500	35	51	57½	2	9½
(*588)	600	6	22½	30	22	32
ICI	900	45	70	82	6	19½
(*936)	950	14½	40½	54	35½	39
Kingfisher	900	49½	53	65	1½	9
(*568)	550	9	22½	32½	20	31
Land Sec	600	17	29½	31	4	20
(*611)	650	0½	8	11½	39½	56
M & S	400	11½	20	29½	4½	16½
(*425)	450	0½	5	11	34½	42
Nat West	600	50½	68½	77	1	9
(*647)	650	14½	37½	47½	14½	24
Sainsbury	360	14	30½	36½	1	13
(*369)	390	1½	7½	13	21	32
Shell	850	12½	25	36	35½	50
(*858)	900	0	8	16½	66½	87
Smith Bch	650	38	53½	66½	4	15
(*681)	700	10	29½	40½	24½	37½
Smithkline	330	14	23½	30½	3	12
(*340)	360	1½	9	17	30½	38½
Trafalgar	45	3½	4	4	0	0
(*48½)	50	0½	0½	0½	1½	1½
Unilever	1100	39½	55	70	12½	24½
(*1095)	1200	9½	31	49½	44½	52
Zeneca	1950	32½	78	102	24	58½
(*1950)	1400	12	54	77½	54½	85

Series	May Aug	Nov	May Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420 23	31	39½ 8	17
(*430)	460 7½	13	21½ 32	39½
LadProduc	180 22	29½	33 5½	10
(*193)	200 11½	19½	24 14½	19½
Utd Biscuits	220 22½	31½	35 4	9½
(*228)	240 10	20	24 0	13½

March 26, 1996 Tot: 27083 Call: 17811 Put: 10572 FT-SE Call: 2081 Put: 1595

*Underlying security price.

Series	Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat	550	98	127	29½	23½	29½
(*569)	600	14½	24	59	47	50
Amstrad	180	19½	24½	2½	6½	10
(*196)	200	8½	15	19½	17	23
Barclays	700	83	107	75	125	135
(*731)	750	29	58	48½	74	86
Blue Circ	330	13	26½	25½	19½	23½
(*331)	360	4	9½	31	40	43½
Br Gas	220	16	19½	21	7½	11
(*231)	240	5½	9	12	20	22
Dixons	420	68	93	69½	6	13
(*457)	460	23	51	40½	20	29½
Forte	340	11½	16	–	2½	6
(*349)	370	1½	3½	–	2½	5
Tarmac	120	7	11	3	9	12½
(*121)	130	3	7	9	14½	16½
Hillsdown	190	14½	15½	14	6	9
(*191)	200	5	–	9	18	21
Lonrho	200	19	25½	2½	5	8
(*211)	220	8	12½	19½	14½	19½
Sears	80	10	12	1½	3½	5
(*79½)	100	3½	7	9½	20½	23
Thorn	1940	130	153½	173	20	45
(*1681)	1700	98	97	117½	54½	68½
Tomkins	280	24½	38½	31	3½	7½
(*257½)	260	12	16½	19½	10½	17
Lloyds TSB	270	26½	–	–	9½	–
(*311)	320	13	–	–	18½	–

Series	Calls Jul	Oct	Apr	Puts Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	600	25½	49½	6½	11
(*611½)	650	5½	26½	43½	44½
HSBC	1060	29½	66½	8½	19½
(*1030½)	1050	10	45	24½	31
Reuter	650	47½	67½	9½	21½
(*692½)	700	11½	37	51	54

Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Bristol Ins	280	27	38	4½	11	14
(*284½)	300	9	21½	23½	31½	37

Series	Jun		Jun	
Fisons	250	9	–	5½
(*265)	260	11	–	19½

Series	May		May	
Eastn Gp	950	33	–	0
(*975)	1000	0	–	25

Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	460	55	57½	4½	12½	19
(*479½)	500	17	19	25½	35	38
Scot Pwr	330	29	34	9	9	9
(*349½)	360	11	17	32	35½	38

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 96	3700.0	3705.0	3675.0	3676.5	9036
Previous open interest: 63700	Sep 96				3692.5	0
FT-SE 250	Jun 96				4321.0	0
Previous open interest: 3405	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 96	93.92	93.94	93.91	93.94	10499
Previous open interest: 327861	Sep 96	93.72	93.75	93.68	93.74	9926
	Dec 96	93.35	93.42	93.32	93.40	12525
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 96	96.75	96.80	96.75	96.78	25920
Previous open interest: 106864	Sep 96	96.62	96.70	96.62	96.69	29498
Long Gilt	Mar 96	105-11	106-07	105-11	106-07	124
Previous open interest: 117430	Jun 96	104-24	105-12	104-12	105-08	40981
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	119.62	119.64	118.53	118.54	472
	Sep 96				117.41	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 96	95.83	95.89	95.79	95.85	150915
Previous open interest: 231662	Sep 96	95.35	95.70	95.35	95.61	312
Three month ECU	Jun 96	95.40	95.45	95.40	95.45	1104
Previous open interest: 21295	Sep 96	95.39	95.41	95.39	95.41	147
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 96	98.21	98.26	98.21	98.26	6751
Previous open interest: 52497	Sep 96	98.09	98.17	98.09	98.16	3762
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 96	109.85	109.22	108.72	108.97	31928
Previous open interest: 42452	Sep 96				108.42	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth 5⅝. Sell: 2 mth 5½; 3 mth: 5⅝.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	
Sterling Money Rates:	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝
Interbank:	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝
Overnight: open 5⅝, close 5⅛.					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.35	n/a	5.31	5.34	5.56
Building Society CDs:	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝	6-5⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3½-2½
French Franc:	4¼-4	4¼-4⅛	4¼-4⅛	4¼-4⅛	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	2-1½	2-1
Yen:	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $398.00-398.40 Close: $397.90-398.40 High: $398.40-398.90 Low: $397.00-397.50 AM: $398.00 PM: $397.90

Krugerrand: $397.50-399.50 (£250.75-252.75)

Platinum: $412.15 (£270.45) Silver: $5.02 (£3.685) Palladium: $140.50 (£92.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for March 25

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5136-2.5223	2.5190-2.5202	½-1pr	1-1½pr
Brussels	46.14-46.35	46.25-46.35	13-10pr	33-29pr
Copenhagen	9.6720-9.7110	9.6890-9.7110	1½-1pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9662-0.9715	0.9685-0.9711	10-7pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2455-2.2540	2.2500-2.2540	½-1pr	1½-1½pr
Lisbon	231.68-232.08	232.38-232.98	½-dis	½-dis
Madrid	188.85-189.59	189.30-189.90	38-48dis	107-124dis
Milan	2375.5-2393.5	2375.5-2379.5	7-9dis	21-24dis
Montreal	2.0711-2.0783	2.0739-2.0768	0.23-0.14pr	0.42-0.31pr
New York	1.5220-1.5254	1.5230-1.5240	0.09-0.07pr	0.26-0.23pr
Oslo	9.7710-9.8030	9.7980-9.8030	1½-1pr	3½-2½pr
Paris	7.6610-7.7230	7.7050-7.7230	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Stockholm	10.073-10.111	10.088-10.111	½-dis	½-dis
Tokyo	161.42-162.11	161.66-161.93	½-pr	2½-2pr
Vienna	15.900-15.967	15.920-15.957	½-pr	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.8127-1.8182	1.8154-1.8182	½-pr	2-1½pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr Discount - dis.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2903-1.2911
Austria	10.37-10.38
Belgium (Com)	30.32-30.33
Canada	1.3590-1.3604
Denmark	5.6995-5.7025
France	5.0540-5.0545
Germany	1.4755-1.4760
Hong Kong	7.7318-7.7328
Ireland	1.5695-1.5705
Italy	1560.25-1561.25
Japan	106.08-106.11
Malaysia	2.5428-2.5438
Netherlands	1.6505-1.6511
Norway	6.4153-6.4228
Portugal	152.45-152.55
Singapore	1.4065-1.4075
Spain	124.02-124.12
Sweden	6.6160-6.6260
Switzerland	1.1906-1.1911

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5231-1.5257
Australia dollar	1.9648-1.9667
Bahrain dinar	0.5705-0.5825
Brazil real	1.4895-1.4937
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7060-0.7160
Finland markka	6.9200-7.0860
Greece drachma	364.25-371.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.7779-11.7832
India rupee	51.69-52.66
Indonesia rupiah	3510.0-3610.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4520-0.4620
Malaysia ringgit	3.8732-3.8760
New Zealand dollar	2.2149-2.2173
Pakistan rupee	52.46 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7050-5.7100
Singapore dollar	2.1424-2.1446
S Africa rand (com)	5.9530-6.0550
U A E dirham	5.5550-5.6790

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Abbey Nat	2,400	Lloyds TSB	6,000
Allied Dom	1,800	Marks Spr	3,300
Argos	469	NatWest Bk	2,800
Argyll Gp	1,600	Nat Grid	7,

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No rooms at the top

COULD the Halifax Building Society, soon to become a plc, be taking things just a little far in pursuit of "shareholder value" for future investors? Down from its home in the North, to explain its purchase of Clerical Medical to the City yesterday, and to present its annual results today, the mutual booked one of the grandest conference rooms in the Savoy. Its executives, alas, stayed elsewhere. "We're staying somewhere cheaper to save money," an insider confided. Where? The rather less exciting Strand Palace, over the road from the Savoy, where a modest room costs from £118 compared with the Savoy's £305.

Hobby-horse

ALMOST as work on the £650,000 make-over of the Opera Terrace restaurant in Covent Garden began yesterday, the deputy chairman of the Chez Gerard Groupe which bought the site last year, was already champing at the bit. Laurence Isaacson, who refuses to shut-up shop during refurbishment, insists the dining room be "upgraded" by the end of May for the start of the two-week Covent Garden Festival, which he calls his "hobby" and whose board he chairs. His main concern is signposting for the upstairs restaurant. "In spite of English Heritage, we want people to find it, and we will make it so fabulous that they'll try even harder to make their way up."



Isaacson: staying open

CHIEF executive of the Alexon Group, John Osborn claims to be all man. "I personify the typical male who hates the whole process of shopping." booms the man who decides what ladies hang in their wardrobes. "I'm head to toe in Marks & Spencer — bought on the hoof at speed."

Rent a vote

IN ITS latest newsletter, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade is advertising free British Aerospace shares, in the hope that supporters will turn out in force for BAe's annual meeting on May 1, to challenge the company's contract to equip the Indonesian Air Force with Hawk fighters.

MORAG PRESTON



The numbers become much more dramatic when slaughtering is considered, especially if the effects are allowed to hit inflation, growth and employment

The cost of the beef crisis is more than a pound of flesh

Janet Bush and **Alasdair Murray** look at the economic ramifications of BSE

Health was the first and most important fear provoked by the beef crisis which erupted last week. But, as the days go by, the Government and the City are beginning to look at the potential economic and financial consequences.

There is sufficient concern about the impact on the economy that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, attended an emergency meeting of senior ministers yesterday morning. The Treasury said that it was looking at all the cost ramifications of the crisis. In more colourful language, one government official said: "The public spending people at the Treasury will be doing their nuts."

There are so many uncertainties about how the beef scare will play itself out that calculating the potential cost to the economy is a tortuous affair. Will the Government sanction a herd slaughter policy and, if so, how many head of cattle will be killed? At what price will the Government compensate farmers? Will the European Union help to pay the bill?

But most onlookers believe that the economic ramifications will be significant, in particular for public spending. City analysts yesterday argued variously that the crisis would mean no more tax cuts in the November Budget, that the Goverment could be forced into holding an early election, that an incoming Labour government would be handed a poisoned chalice — the prospect of having to raise taxes to foot the bill.

The immediate impact of the Government's statement last week that there may be a link between people suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and eating beef infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — or "mad cow" disease — has been a plunge in the price of beef and large price rises for other kinds of meat. A straw poll of supermarkets and restaurateurs by the British Retail Consortium yesterday suggested that demand for beef had dropped by an average of 50 per cent at the end of last week. This estimate was based on very little beef actually being sold. Meanwhile, traders at Smithfield said that poultry prices had jumped 25 per cent and new spring lamb 50 per cent. Beef prices had been marked down by 15 per cent or thereabouts, but price was irrelevant — nobody wanted to buy.

The current plunge in demand alone may have significant economic implications. Guesstimates from HSBC Markets and James Capel suggest that the headline rate of inflation could be cut by 0.2 per cent. However, Britain's trade deficit could rise by between £1 billion and £1.25 billion and growth this year could be cut by 1 per cent. Even if there were no other ramifications than a plunge in demand, several billions would be added to the public sector borrowing requirement.

The numbers become much more dramatic when the question of slaughtering is considered. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, made no mention of this possibility yesterday, having raised it at the weekend. Speculation has centred on the slaughter of all 4.5 million dairy cows aged more than 30 months. The economic impact of this would depend crucially, as Ian Shepherdson, of HSBC Markets, suggests, on whether the effects are allowed to hit inflation, growth and employment or whether the Government foots the bill to avoid this.

Mr Shepherdson believes the latter is the most likely course. Under this scenario, the Government would fully compensate farmers which would cost about £4 billion. On top of this, it would have to subsidise the price of milk until the new herd was producing milk and/or imported milk could be sourced. This could cost another £6 billion over a full year. The recovery of the herds could take two to three years, so Britain's trade deficit could suffer until 1999.

The cost to the Government's finances is impossible to quantify. Mr Shepherdson said: "The final extent of the damage will depend on the extent to which the EU can be persuaded to cough up, but it seems unlikely that a PSBR hit of anything less than several billions can be avoided."

The uncertainty surrounding the beef crisis spilled over on to the stock market with shares in the food producer sector hit by scares of rising costs and falling sales. But the focus of bearish market sentiment shifted yesterday from meat producers to the dairy companies after rumours circulated that the Government was considering a cattle cull which would hit dairy cows hardest.

The dairy market is worth about £6 billion a year in the UK, compared with the £3.5 billion domestic beef market, and any major slaughter programme would drive up costs for Britain's two largest dairies, Northern Foods and Unigate, as the companies seek alternative supplies abroad. There were also fears that European dairy companies may view the debacle as an opportunity to try to win some of the competitive British market.

The negative sentiment was compounded by a sell notice for the two companies issued by UBS, the broker. Northern Foods generates about 40 per cent of its profits from milk, and its shares fell from 199p to 183p. Shares in Unigate, which makes about 30 per cent of its profits from milk products, also fell heavily from 437p to 407p.

Dalgety and Harrisons Crosfield, the two leading animal feed producers, also suffered as fears grew that the market in feed would collapse after a cattle cull. There was also concern that costs would increase as the companies were forced to alter the make-up of animal feed to comply with new regulations banning meat and bone meal from feed given to other animals such as pigs and poultry.

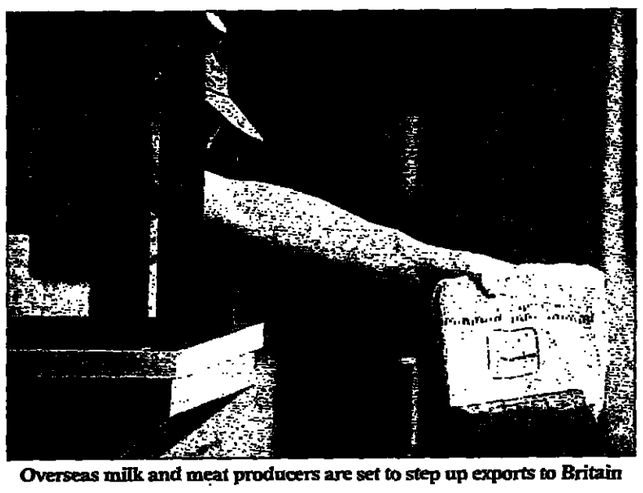
But the UK Agricultural Supply Trade Association, which represents the majority of Britain's feed producers, denied that altering the ingredients of feed would prove to be an onerous burden to manufacturers. The association said that meat and bone meal made up only about 2 per cent of the feed and that ready alternatives, such as fish meal, were available.

The association also played down fears that the industry could face a rush of compensation claims from farmers who had lost stock or even from infected humans. A spokesman said: "We have examined the legal implications, but we believe that the industry did not act in a negligent fashion and has responded quickly to all new requirements." The association added that any litigants would face the almost impossible task of proving that one particular batch of feed caused a BSE outbreak.

While cattle-related stocks suffered, Britain's poultry farmers enjoyed more bullish market sentiment as the City calculated that consumers would turn to other meats. Shares in Bernard Matthews, the turkey producer, have risen 26 per cent since last Wednesday, while Hillsdown, the poultry specialist which recently sold off its abattoir business, hit a year high of 192p. Foreign food producers are also set to benefit from the beef crisis, with cattle prices rising in European markets yesterday and Argentina promising a big export push.

But perhaps the most unlikely beneficiaries are Australian camel breeders hoping to expand the market for camel meat and "humpburgers" beyond central Australia. Taffy Williams, a spokesman for the Central Australian Camel Industry Association, said: "Camel is a lovely lean meat, something between beef and mutton really. We aim to sell it in the game section — alongside kangaroo and emu."





Overseas milk and meat producers are set to step up exports to Britain



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Major's fatal hesitation after Mad Wednesday

For the second time since John Major won the 1992 election, his Government's credibility has been shattered. The public's trust in ministers has evaporated and the Tories' claims to competence have been laughed to scorn. But even more important, though as yet imperceptible, has been the discrediting of an entire political agenda. Black Wednesday in 1992 marked the end of monetarism and the traditional Tory obsession with fighting inflation. Mad Wednesday in 1996 has discredited another Thatcherite dream of the 1980s: deregulation and the "rolling back" of the State.

In Parliament yesterday, the phrase "nanny state" was derisively thrown from the Tory backbenches. But this only revealed that Tory free-market dogmatists are now totally out of touch. A nanny state is exactly what people now want — and that includes Tory farmers, who are more attached to the State's apron-strings than any other group in Britain. In the 1990s, the public expects the Government to offer reassurance and protection. And Tony Blair's new Labour seem to have realised that regulation is an essential and popular function of government — and one that can be undertaken without terrifying middle-class voters about extortionate tax demands. But wait a minute. Surely, money was exactly the Government's problem in the mad cow scare? Ministers no doubt realised that public anxiety would only be allayed by slaughtering BSE-affected herds, but they also knew full well that such culling would expose them to huge compensation demands. Whatever the economic and moral doubts about compensating farmers, the political reality was unambiguous: full compensation would have to be paid. Not only would this add significantly to the public sector borrowing requirement and thereby make it harder to justify another round of pre-election tax cuts. More importantly, the expenditure of billions on dealing with an unproven health risk that might affect no more than a few dozen beef eaters annually would be a grotesque misuse of public money. The same resources would almost certainly save far more lives in other ways.

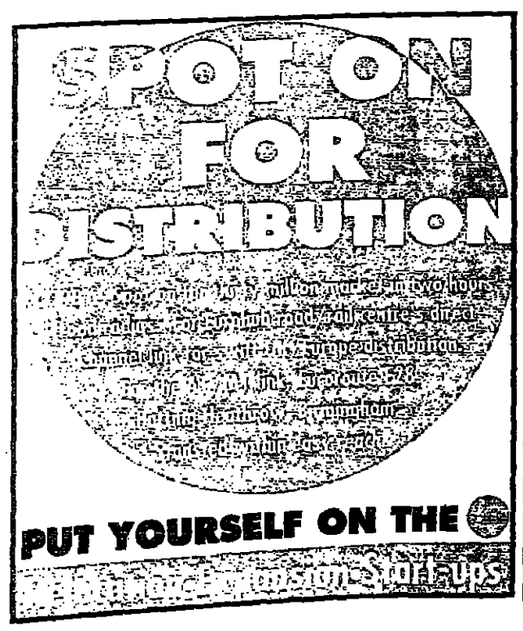
> Mr Dorrell exposed the Government's ideological Achilles' heel — a lacuna likely to bring Labour to power

These were no doubt the arguments that swayed ministers when they decided on yesterday's do-little approach. A more imaginative Cabinet aware of the creative possibilities of regulation, would surely have realised that state-financed culling was not the only alternative to nature and the market taking their course.

In yesterday's Commons exchange, the Labour and Liberal health spokesmen presented Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, with a long list of proposals for tightening regulations on cattle farming and slaughter, ranging from the deboning of all beef to government-supervised labelling for herds free of BSE. None would have entailed significant costs to the Treasury. Yet, Mr Dorrell contemptuously dismissed them all. His reply to the demand for an official labelling scheme was particularly telling: there was nothing to stop individual manufacturers, retailers and farmers offering consumers such information of their own accord.

In making this argument, Mr Dorrell was inadvertently exposing the Government's ideological Achilles' heel — a lacuna that is now all too likely to bring Labour to power. After 17 years of preoccupation with macroeconomic policy and trying to cut taxes, the Tories have quite simply forgotten that creating the conditions of trust in which private citizens can operate has always been the main function of the State — one that long preceded the macroeconomic and redistributive agendas of the 20th century. The Tories have also forgotten that the State can command economic resources without spending public money and raising income tax. If it were decided, for example, that mass slaughter was desirable, the Government could quite easily finance this not out of general revenues but from future levies on farmers and food processors — not to mention the feed-manufacturing companies whose decision to turn cows into cannibals seems to have been responsible for the epidemic in the first place. There are ample precedents for forcing manufacturers of dangerous goods — and their insurers — to compensate those who used them (in this case, farmers).

By ignoring such possibilities — refusing even to offer the minimal moral support of official endorsement for disease-free and organic herds — the Government has guaranteed minimum confidence among the public and maximum hardship for farmers. Of course, government policy will change, perhaps within weeks, just as it did after Black Wednesday. In 1992, the few weeks of hesitation were fatal to the Government's reputation. The same is likely to be true of the weeks after Mad Wednesday.



Rachel Kelly on a rival to pastiche offices

Dawn of the groundscraper

A new design of office block for the 1990s is sweeping the City. Out go the neo-classical pastiche blocks complete with pillars and period-style detail beloved of the Prince of Wales. In their stead are a rash of squat, glass, modern "groundscrapers".

Planners, developers and tenants are rejecting traditional designs in favour of more contemporary, confident blocks. The Corporation of London is currently identifying 20 sites where relatively short but giant buildings of half a million sq ft each can be built.

"Groundscrapers" typically have five storeys, but maximum floor space, suited to the vast dealing floors needed by American and European banks setting up London headquarters. They are built of modern materials — often glass triple-glazed — are environmentally friendly, and use latest technology. They are usually cheaper than pastiche, with its fancy stonework.

Inside, typically, there is an enclosed street, surrounded by shops and canteens to encourage a sense of corporate community, rather than the atria of the 1980s. Decorative planting is kept to a minimum, and escalators have replaced lifts.

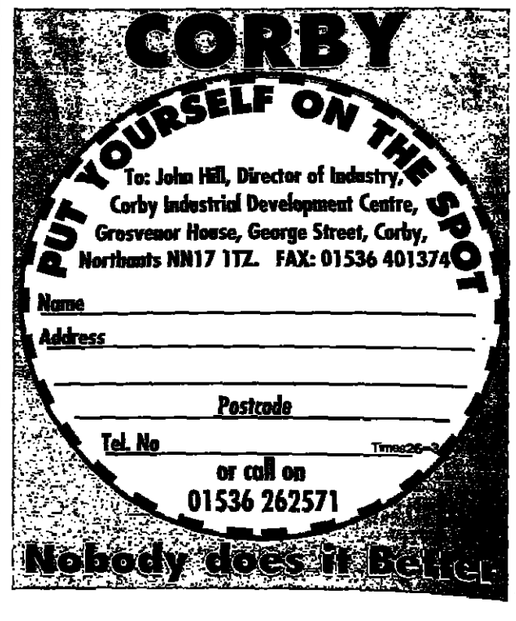
Henry Herzberg, an architect with Chapman Taylor and at the forefront of the new designs, says: "Tenants want state of the art buildings that have an international rather than a dated feel about them. These are often headquarters buildings that need to reflect their corporate philosophy."

Two recent planning decisions confirm the vogue. The Prince of Wales's hopes of a classical revival in the City at Paternoster Square were dashed two months ago. His traditional plans — drawn two years ago with classical architects such as Terry Farrell — were rejected as unworkable by the Corporation of London and Mitsubishi, the developer.

Michael Cassidy, head of the corporation's planning committee, says: "These were dinky buildings with attractive exteriors designed for small merchant banks. But businesses who want to take space in the City want bigger buildings with larger floor plates to use as their European headquarters."

A second pastiche scheme, at London Bridge City, south of the Thames, is being dropped for glass-fronted modernism. The developer, St Martins, has redesigned the £180 million scheme after prospective occupiers rejected the classical design. The new design is a five-storey glass building, its windows shaded by metal screens. A mast-like structure on the roof gives a nautical flavour.

Sarah Gaventa, historian with the Royal Institute of British Architects, says: "The classical architectural style was impractical for large dealing floors because the pillars, which are part and parcel of the classical style, obstructed trading."



BRIEFINGS

Closing date for entries in the annual Export Award for Smaller Businesses — with £40,000 worth of prizes — has been put back two weeks to April 18. Entry is open to all independent UK companies with fewer than 200 employees and sustained growth in export earnings: turnover in overseas sales must exceed £100,000 in the past year. Application forms from DTI Regional Offices, Business Links, Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland, Scottish Trade International and the Welsh Office.

☐ A series of free evening seminars for owner-managed businesses will be held in April and May by Clark Whitehill, chartered accountants, at its office in central London. Topics will include the impact of a Labour government, succession planning and improving financial returns. Details: Tracy Auty on 0171-353 1577.

☐ Better relationships between banks and businesses are emphasised in a reissued updated guide from NatWest Bank and the Institute of Directors. *Your Business and Your Bank*, aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises, includes advice on raising finance, credit control and international trade. Tony Shaw, NatWest's corporate services managing director, said: "As customers become increasingly sophisticated and demand more advanced solutions to their financial problems, banks are recognising that they must work harder to keep their customers, in order to sustain long-term business growth." Price: £9.95, plus £1.50 post and packing. More information: 0171-730 6060.

Cash from a coppice

Jennai Cox meets a businesswoman who makes sure every branch and twig goes to make a living

MARTIN RICKETTS



Rebecca Oaks's products include tent pegs for marquee companies and hazel hurdles for garden centres

An abiding love of trees took Rebecca Oaks into a traditional line of work devoted to them. As a coppice worker her days are spent in forests examining the potential of trees and she is one of a growing number of young people who have set up on their own to revive an ancient form of woodland management.

Coppice comes from the French word coupe, meaning cut — but the work is more than chopping trees. New shoots spring up from a tree stump when it is cut and felling also helps to reduce forest density, allowing undergrowth to flourish. Every branch, twig and leaf is then used to make a living.

After working as a volunteer coppice merchant while doing a Recreational Land Management course at Myerscough College, Lancashire, Rebecca decided on her career. With a business loan and £1,000 of savings, she was up and running.

She pays £50 for a quarter hectare standing of trees working three at a time and taking a month to complete one. After careful selection of which trees to fell, the branches are bundled and either sold or used to make wooden products.

In a yard on the Leighton Hall estate in Carnforth, near the caravan where she lives, Rebecca has a workshop. There she makes tent pegs which are sold to marquee companies, and hazel hurdles and beanpoles for garden centres. Tool and broom handles are made from thicker branches, with the largest being used for showjumping poles.

She makes coracles — traditional fishing boats — from hazel and willow and during the winter burns wood to make the charcoal sold by garages for summer barbecues. In between, she takes on scrub clearance contracts for conservation groups such as English Nature.

She earned enough during the first year to break even and buy herself a second-hand tractor, and expects her income to increase with experience. Rebecca demonstrates at rural trade fairs and plans to teach. A course in oak bark peeling, used to make rustic furniture, is planned this year.

"Woodland has financial value as well as aesthetic," she says. "If people see you can make money and care for the environment, it will motivate them. Someone needs to show it's a positive way to make a living."

Rebecca Oaks intends to be that someone.

Luncheon dates with contracts on the menu

By Brian Collett

A RECRUITMENT drive by the Business Network organisation starts next month with the first of its new regional exhibitions.

Business Network's South Central region will run the events, with the first at Croydon, south London, on April 17.

The exhibitions will emphasise the single-minded nature of BN groups, which began in New Zealand about ten years ago and were set up in Britain in 1993.

The purpose is to bring people together with the sole aim of doing business in the easy atmosphere of regular luncheons. Members are not involved in lobbying or charity work, unlike other business people's groups, such as chambers of commerce and Rotary clubs.

Membership gives them two exhibition places a year and a national directory of members. There is no hierarchy, but activities are organised by officials. John Petherick, the South Central region chief executive, said: "At the luncheons I guarantee to sit members next to people who are interested in their products."

At one luncheon a businessman obtained a £1 million order from another whose company was nearby but whom he had not previously known. The record deal struck at a luncheon was worth £3 million. On average, said Mr Petherick, members find that BN increases turnover by £20,000 a year.

Mr Petherick said another advantage was that women felt they were treated as equals in the groups. Gillian Nash, managing director of Horley Press, a printing company in Reigate, Surrey, said she was once invited to join a women's chamber of commerce. "Business Network doesn't give that sort of thing a second thought," she said. "There are a lot of women in it."

Networks have been started in Germany, France, Spain and Portugal. The annual fee is £175 plus VAT, giving membership to three representatives of a company.

The other exhibitions in the South Central region will be at Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Wimbledon, Gatwick and Knightsbridge. Information: 01293 886610.



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Voluntary Financial Notice
When purchasing an ostrich, the owner places the ostrich in livery with the Ostrich Farming Corporation. As part of the purchase contract the Corporation agree to the stated Chick Allocation, Guaranteed Buy Back Options and live for life replacement in the event of ill health or infertility. As a result the purchase is not a financial investment and therefore is not regulated by the Personal Investment Authority in the UK and the associated Investors Compensation scheme. In the event of the Corporation being unable to trade, the owner still retains their initial 'asset' in their ostrich(es) and its offspring, which will be placed into livery at a farm that meets the existing natural and humane welfare farming standard laid down by the Ostrich Farming Corporation. At all times the owners' Ostrich(es) are wholly owned by the owners.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	479½	Allied Domecq	497	-11	5.9	18.0
586	390	Hiram (HP)	565	+3	2.6	19.3
146	99	Bass	117		3.4	15.3
467	354	Brit Sh Brew	439		3.3	25.3
536	484	Greenalls	528	+1	2.3	18.5
545	315	Highland Distl	468	+2	4.1	15.6
217	157	Macallan-Glen	168		2.8	15.9
710	600	Macki Mtn A	664		1.0	36.4
725	602	Matthew Clark	705	-2	3.1	18.0
140	110	Morgan W	133		4.5	
2612½	1928½	S A Brewer	2181½	-75	1.5	34.2

BANKS

3171	2130½	ABN AMRO	3121	+16½	4.0	11.3
663	413	Abbey Natl	567	-8	4.8	10.9
385	292	Allied Irish	328		6.4	
136	98	Bk Nova	130		2.3	
5075	2931½	Bank America	4981½	+158½		
316	191	Bank Scotland	299½	-3	3.1	11.0
819	557½	Barclays†	749½	-4	4.8	8.6
488	358	Bk of Ireland	459	-1	4.8	8.6
525	418	Cater Allen	459		4.0	8.4
5312½	2460	Chase	5187½	-75	1.9	9.2
392	216½	Close Bros	370	-1	3.1	16.4
2167½	1125½	Commercial	2129½	+20½	3.6	
1372	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1268½	+25	0.4	
3375	2775	Deutsche Bk	3362½	+28½	2.2	
981½	568½	Espirito Santo	787½	+6½	4.6	10.4
1611	1138½	Fgn Bank	1482½	+27½	0.4	
390	288	Gerrard Nat	404		7.0	13.0
2053	1660	Hambros	1934	+4	4.0	
1135½	889	HSBC	1019	+6½	4.0	11.7
1099½	878	HSBC (HK)	958	+17½	4.0	11.5
431	328	Irish Perm	386		3.3	
165	85	Kwg Shanson	152		2.4	11.8
463	353	Lloyds	453	+3	5.2	15.6
350	294½	Lloyds TSB	331½	+3	5.1	15.8
648	479	Nat Aust Bk	603	+7	3.0	8.8
711	454	Nat Westm	647		4.9	9.1
67	44	Rea Brothers	59		3.4	
639½	372½	Rgl Bk Scot	576	-6	3.9	11.7
1478	986½	Schroders†	1319	-9½	1.6	17.3
1180	803½	Schroders NVtg	933	-9½	2.1	13.0
113	81	Singer & Fried	102	+½	5.0	8.0
662½	246	Stand Chartrd	601	-5	3.2	13.4
121	78	Unicorn	102	+2	3.4	
2769	1942½	Wells Fargo	2162½	+150	1.9	
3171	211	Westpac	315	+1½	4.5	
385	200	Wilmslow	384		6.8	17.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

60	25	Alexis Sa Hld	59			8.7
368	143	Accor Hldgs	340			14.2
770	487	Bass	742	-2	3.8	17.2
76	42	Brt Sc Inv Bd	43	-2	4.0	12.6
192	103	Burtonwd Bre	170		4.0	16.1
97	70½	City Centre Rest	95			21.7
501	335	Compass (UK)	485		1.9	18.0
263	137	Enterprise P A	256	-1	1.9	21.8
475	355	Fgth Sec A C	468	-1	1.3	18.5
214	160	Greenalls Grp	207	-4	3.1	15.4
856	468	Gerome Kong	844		2.8	15.5
278	180	Gpcovers Inns	275	-1	2.8	15.1
254	108	Groupe Chez Ger	210	-12	1.5	21.2
357	260	Hardy Hanon	309		3.9	12.1
193	150	Hasenfee	155		4.8	
3425	3048	Hnsl J	3325	+25	2.1	11.5
347	219	Mancheste	329	+1	2.1	16.2
348	266	Nelson Dnns	346		2.6	15.3
668	391½	Norland	668		2.2	16.7
165	75	Ny Kosta Town†	132	+2	2.8	13.7
B†	5½	Paramount†	5½		4.8	9.2
142½	78	Pelican Gp	126	+½	1.6	21.2
360	121	PizzaExpress†	350		1.0	30.1
319	217	Ransdens (H)	313		2.0	32.8
1023	337	Regent Inns	1016	-2	1.0	31.9
671	465	Scot & Nwe	646		3.6	17.4
258	173	Tom Cobleigh	244		1.4	39.7
309	211	Vaux Group	275	-2	4.6	15.3
791	649	Wolverhampn JD	791	+9	1.3	27.6
732	521	Whitbread	681	-2	3.8	16.6
646	483	Whitehall D	644		3.8	15.7
356	186	Yates Bros	356		1.1	31.6
550	425	Young 'A'	540	-10	3.5	21.9

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

39	17½	AAF Inds	35	+1		
166	125	Abbey	165		4.0	10.7
242	143	Allen	240		3.1	17.9
103	54½	Amec	101		3.7	21.3
275	135	Andrews Sykes	268	+3		
191	129½	Ashtead†	186		1.7	16.1
105	76	Aycliffe	105		4.3	
38	23	Bailey (Brnt) Con	36½	+½	4.6	6.9
41½	30½	Barrow	39		7.0	
262	158	Barratt Dev	239	+1	3.9	14.9
172	125	Beazer Homes	169		4.1	14.1
303	180	Bellway	277		3.5	13.3
37	15	Bellwood	19			
568	307½	Berkeley Gp	551	+3	1.8	17.0
185	147	Bett Bros	180		4.5	9.4
245	175	Blend (Hldgs)	205		4.4	15.6
134	81	Brandon Hire	121		2.4	17.6
48	17	Britannia Grp	21	+1	9.5	4.1
160	28	Br Bldg & Eng	39			
134	93	Bryant	118	-1	5.3	14.3
131	82	CALA†	96		4.3	10.4
38	10	Campbell & Arm	16			12.7
64	34	Clarke T	44		12.4	
242½	67	Costain	78			
110	53	Countrywide†	72	-1	4.9	
81	42	Crest Nicholson†	72			
98	70	Cussons	80		5.9	7.0
253	118	Eva Group	173		6.5	9.3
29	13	Galliford†	19		6.6	41.1
683	233	Glaxson (MJ)	648	+3	2.3	15.6
86	57	Green (Ernst)	51		6.6	
315	178	Hawtnbck Euro	313		1.3	26.3
156	115	Hawtn-Stuart	156	+3	2.4	15.0
93	73	Higgs & Hill	91		3.4	17.3
21	14	Howard Hldgs	18		5.6	16.4
34½	9½	Jarvis	30½	-½		
148	98	Keller	140	+1	3.9	
286	185	Laing (J)	284	+1	3.4	
110½	62	Laing 6.4% Cv Prf	105	-4	7.6	
21	11	Lilleshall	15½			
210	176	Maunders	205		3.5	12.7
181	104	McAlpine (A)	161		4.7	18.3
88	48	McAlp'ne & S	85		2.9	11.8
68	45	Morgan Sindall†	67	+½	3.5	
128	116	Morrison Cons	128	+1	4.2	12.5
106	53	Mowlem (JM)	106	-3	6.1	
206	153½	Pecksmnwest	196	-3	6.1	
115	78½	Pochins	105	-3	1.9	10.6
126	94	Powdrlng	121		3.9	16.1
53	13	Raine Ind	18½			
149	93	Redpath	135	-4	3.0	14.9
66	45	Secure Retire	54		3.3	10.2
398	265	Shand Hldgsit	290		3.0	10.6
112½	72	Shanco	71		4.1	10.9
368	258	Spandex	368		1.0	
175	125	Tay Homes	131	-14	6.8	11.8
153	99	Taylor Woodrw	138	-3	2.0	26.3
568	408	Tilbury Douglas	472	-1	6.6	6.4
27	5	Trenchwood0/S	8½			
7½	7½	Try Group	13		4.8	
103	71	Vonstplant	94		5.4	7.1
116	65	Wainbomes	88		6.4	8.2
69	47	Ward Hldgs†	60		4.7	6.0
205	117½	Westbury	197		3.7	14.6
6½	2½	Wiggins	6½			44.7
180	124	Wilson (C)	162		3.6	
419	308	Wilson Bowdn	404	+1	3.2	
148	97	Wimpey (G)	138	+½	5.0	

BUILDING MATERIALS

15	7½	Alanglsm	15½			
342	262½	BPB Ind	314		3.7	14.6
113	94	Baggeridge Bk	98		3.9	13.9
41	22½	Barlow	39½	+½	7.6	17.3
36	26	Blacktop	35		0.9	
353	256	Blue Circle	332	-8	4.4	15.1
88	71	Brockm PLC	80		3.8	16.3
136	105	Br Dredging	125		3.1	
1099	568	Cadogan	968	-1	2.1	
42	32	Calverhead Rdy	33		3.0	
210	148	Capper	165	+2½	8.3	
213	173	Cavendish	207		2.4	10.7
1304	994	Caradon plc	1095	-1	3.6	17.5
35	18	Chelsea Gp	26		3.6	
198	105	Dyson (JB)	185		2.7	15.3
90	63	Dyson 'A'	78		6.4	6.1
315	205	Ecclesn Grp	253		3.3	11.3
185	73	Flarr	175	-1	1.4	
99	65	Gibbs & Dandy	93		4.8	
206	160	Graham Grp†	179	+1½	2.8	17.5
312	260	Hallstead (J)	309		6.5	14.6
358	254	Hepworth	353		5.1	15.8
85	36	Hewden†	53		9.9	12.5
202½	162	Heywd Wmpt	200	-1½	7.5	12.5
85	66	Ibstock	82		3.9	11.9
398	267½	Johnston	382	+2	3.0	18.5
108	80	Lilleshall	104		7.4	10.5
165	105	Marley	124	-½	4.8	13.2
161	125	Marshalls†	161		3.9	11.6
418	269	Meyer Int	386	-6	7.4	14.5
178	113	Newmon Tiles	120			
184	71	Nthcrn	97	+1		
39	29½	Phoenix Timbr	29			38.2
263	176	Pilkington	258	-3	3.0	16.6
191	129½	Polypipe†	184	-1	2.4	24.5
1119	994	Ready Mix	994	-10	2.7	13.5
1478	986½	Redland†	1395	-5	5.3	12.1
1180	803½	Rentokil	1102	+4	0.5	16.7
113	81	Rocket	102	+1	5.2	11.9
662½	246	Rotbrond	601	+1	3.9	15.3
121	70	Rugby Group†	114	+1	3.5	16.8
263	196	Sandvik (A)	235	+4½	3.7	
334	196	SIG†	330			
58	30½	SWP	52		2.6	13.7
180	136	Sharpe & Fisher	172	-1		
119	88	Smith (David)	114		4.3	16.5
139	97	Staffordshire Hldgs	125		4.2	12.9
98	68	Tarmac	121		4.2	12.9
387	97	Tilbn	380	+1	3.0	16.2
366	256	Travis Perkins	360	+3	3.1	17.8
68	24	Tudor	30			
68	31	Waterhouse†	31			
489	324	Wolseley	458	-3	2.8	15.5

CHEMICALS

198	146	Allright & Wtl	174	+½	4.7	
137	105	Allied Colloids	131	-½	3.8	12.9
245	191	Amtex Ind	76		2.1	21.9
76	42	Ansbury Gp	76		3.5	
21.75p	13.25p	BASF DM	£17½	+12½	2.8	16.5
648	469	BOC	595	-3	3.8	17.9
316	235	BTP	297	+1	2.6	
21.75p	17.41p	Bayer DM50	£20½	+40½	2.6	
179	137	Bayer Chemsit	167½		2.7	17.2
328	196	Br Vita	317	+1	4.7	13.9
1189	884	Canning (W)	1140	-1	4.4	20.1
384	352	Courtaulds	377	-5	3.6	13.8
369	310	Croda	341		3.5	
257	206	Elkem	241		3.5	13.0
334	254	Ellis & Everard	273		3.8	20.7
58	50	Evode Colour	54		4.4	11.8
114	74	Gibbon	80		6.5	7.6
165	76	Hickson	128½	+19½	2.5	
213	173½	Hoechst	213	+1	5.5	
102	71	Holliday Chemit	97	+1	4.0	13.9
660	534	IMI	634		4.0	17.1
1685	1175	Inchcape	1652		2.1	
57½	36½	Ingenhsz	47½		4.0	17.1
599	429	Laporte	578	-3	4.5	
126	96	Mandoes	108	+3	2.6	
96	66	Marsham	89		2.6	
1095	778	Metrotec	1095		1.7	13.0
390	278	Pensort	380		3.4	16.4
158	98	Scapa	134	+½	4.7	11.9
18	16	Scottish Coat	18		8.6	14.1
1027½	705½	Takeda Chem	1027½	+15½	0.6	14.1
2749½	1933	Wasserstein P	1933	+5	2.5	18.8
278	176	Yorks Chem†	278		2.7	17.8
336	196	Yule Catto	334	-1		

DISTRIBUTORS

107½	67	ABF Inds	94	-2	5.8	9.7
545	430	Adam & Harvey	453	-2	6.4	5.5
27	13	Alexanders†	14		7.7	
127	88	Applegarth	101		5.1	
71½	34½	Ass Br Eng	57½		4.3	16.5
305	265	BSS Group	29			
36	26	Bandt	29	+1	7.8	14.5
159	109	Bearing Pwrtr	23		3.9	7.6
18	8	Bogod 'A'				
403	418½	Br Aerospace†	398	+½	2.5	16.7
201	144	Br Steel	175	+½	2.0	17.4
190	100	Bullough	105		7.2	22.6
123	71	Bunzl(ex)	109	+4	4.2	15.5
334	236	Cecile Eng	305		4.2	15.0
194	150	Ceslings	185		2.4	15.9
168	140	Chamerlin Hll	140		6.5	9.4
407	294	Chorenog	405		3.4	16.7
225	130	Clarke Blnsons	224		3.4	18.0
565	367	Cobham	545		1.2	20.7
729	508	Cohen (A)	646		1.2	6.0
268	148	Concentric	221		4.8	12.0
243	210	Cookson	238		4.2	18.9
249	159	Dawson Hldgs	198		4.5	13.0
417	330	ES	393		4.2	14.0
115	91	Elliott (B)	93	-7	3.8	9.9
187	77	Expamet†	95		3.2	
1304	790	FKI	1224	+½	3.5	16.2
26	11½	Ferrum	15			
48	22	Firth Hldgs	48			36.8
67	40½	Firth Rixson	60½	-1	2.1	25.0
131	87	GKN	131		3.3	13.0
307	217	Gestar Eng	288	+20	3.4	31.4
378	292	Glynwed	363	-2	4.5	13.9
86	10½	Grantchstr	86		4.0	11.3
184	133	Hadlow Maclin	184		3.5	
208	135	Hadleigh	205		2.5	13.4
135	107	Hall Engl	133	+5	4.5	
180	129½	Hdsns	180	+2	3.3	22.8
67	48	Hampson Ind	48		5.7	11.1
31	19	Hay (Norman)	31	+1		
48	24	Headway†	48	+½	0.8	43.7
183	162	Hill & Smith	119		6.5	11.2
38	26	Hogtonlnvs	36		4.6	
38	28	Hour Gp	36		3.8	19.0
65	46	Howden	63	-1	4.7	8.7
220	162	Hunting	220		3.6	20.8
361	286	IMI	361	-1	4.1	21.6
614	499	Johnson Matth	547	-6	3.0	16.0
56	38	Jones Stepnsn	54½			11.2
688	310	Kelsey Ind	388		5.1	10.9
260	232	Lawrie	233		4.5	12.8
29	19	Lindsr (T) A	25½		4.3	19.6
46	19	ML Hldgs	43	+1	3.8	14.1
39	19	MS Int	39		2.7	
298	137	Marg Brentnd	298		2.2	11.3
583	378	Mickelhse	496	-6	4.2	14.8
57	39	Morgnte	104½	-7	4.7	28.1
161	61	Morgtit	118		4.3	
126	91½	Metallrx	96		4.4	14.2
139	96	Meteor	96		4.4	
545	487	Molins†	515	-8	2.7	
629	283	Morgan Cnte	472	-13	4.3	16.0
316	178	Morris Ashby†	278		4.3	14.5
56	22	Norcomd	48	+1	4.2	10.2
47½	15	Old Ins	16½	+½	3.7	57
424	338	Powerscreen	424	+5	2.5	15.7
15½	4	Prospect Indst	9½			33

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

368	225	Ambergate	362		1.8	12.1
1230	1176½	Bnkrs Trst	1216	-25	2.8	20.1
348	291	BTR†	319	-2½	2.8	13.2
548	465	BHTP	497	-5	5.0	14.2
2709½	1668	Bunzl†	2687		1.7	18.7
131	71	Bibby (J)	118		6.1	9.5
61	49½	Brantley Inv	59½	+½	7.5	3.2
945	743	Charter	899	+10	3.6	14.2
318	185	Cookson†	311	+1½	3.2	16.8
161	135	Cordit	158		3.8	11.7
157	119½	Fenner	150		3.0	14.6
153	108	Gamgard Hldg	137		3.6	14.5
193½	173	Hanscomb†	189	+½	7.9	9.4
1243½	1135	Hanson	1189	+2	4.2	11.8
358	248	Hardy (Peggy)	275	+½	3.2	15.3
358	248	Wholesale Tiger	355		4.2	18.9
80	38	Williams	41		2.4	9.7
185	89	Wilson (Cnlly)	154		2.6	18.0
125	69	Young (H)	115		4.2	17.4

ELECTRICITY

754½	437½	East Midlands†	615	+6	6.0	8.6
865½	479	London Elect	729	+3	6.2	8.3
417	239½	Midlands Elect	393	+9	5.9	10.0
214½	169	Northern Elec	205	+2	6.2	8.6
561	371½	Powergen	480	+1	5.4	10.9
542	252	Nat Power PLC	347	+1	4.3	9.8
1258	1038	Norweb Plc	1182	+3	6.7	7.9
477	313	Nthn Ireland	416		4.4	9.2
855	575½	PowerGen	785	+3	5.5	9.1
1258	1038	PowerGen (P/P)	1182	+3	3.9	11.8
379	303	Hydro-Elec	359½	-½	5.5	9.1
385	308	Scottish Power	365½	-2½	5.4	9.8
538	344½	Seeboard	532	-2	5.4	11.4
1001	831½	Sth Wales	1000		4.5	10.8
1004	804½	Southern Elect	853	+1	4.9	10.0
889½	556	Yorkshire Elect	813	+4	5.6	8.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

577	299	Acal	554		1.7	20.1
243	77½	Acorn Comp	214			
1003	525	Advanced	1000	+18½	1.2	
298½	127½	Amstrad†	190	-1	1.8	
41	30	Arlen	39	+1	1.8	13.5
131	77	Ashtec	128½	+2	6.2	
185	116	Atlas	170		4.7	8.6
364	239	BICC	335		4.6	
255	195	Baltics Hldgs	210		6.2	21.3
525	423	Blacks	464		3.6	13.3
435	284	Brandlnvgs	433	+2	2.2	19.8
	17½	Briton (AF) 'A	23		2.2	9.1
201	117	CML Microsys	123		6.2	12.8
39	17	Channel Hldgs	29	+1	5.7	12.5
30½	19	Chlende	30½		1.4	38.7
81	61	Chrtwlite	71		5.5	10.1
265	205	Cmar Prducts	265		4.3	16.7
99½	58	Ionica Hldg	98	-1	4.1	30.5
278	151	Ferrnty (Regd)	275	+½	3.2	15.3
153	108	Gamgard Hldg	137		3.6	14.5
143½	119	Hazeltree†	139	+½	7.9	9.4
1243½	1135	Hanson	1189	+2	4.2	11.8
358	248	Hardy (Peggy)	275	+½	3.2	15.3
358	248	Wholesale Tiger	355		4.2	18.9
80	38	Williams	41		2.4	9.7
185	89	Wilson (Cnlly)	154		2.6	18.0
125	69	Young (H)	115		4.2	17.4

ENGINEERING

347	167	Abbtt	281		2.9	67.3
97	70	APV	70		3.8	
248	70	ASW†	70	-½	7.1	
445	311½	Alumasc†	405	-2	2.2	18.8
175	47	Alex	163		1.5	16.2
201	133	Ash & Lacy	200		4.5	10.0
575	386	Atlas Copco	515		4.1	25.6
153	116	Ayrshire Metal	148	+1	4.6	8.5
181	98½	BBA†	313	+1	2.4	24.5
79	51	BI Group	140		1.4	14.4
165	107	BSG	149		6.1	14.4
107	68	Babcock	102	-2	2.5	74.9
72	61	Bowding Mills	67	+2	5.1	17.8
3313	1465	Brick	2925		0.6	31.4
3989½	2490½	Bronzavr 'B'	3989½	+37½	3.7	
35	25	Brown	35		2.8	12.5
1655½	850	Ericsson 'B'	1479½	+49½	1.2	
104	64	Eurocopy†	71		4.0	12.5
614	370	Eurotherm†	608	+1	1.5	24.2
536	375	Fairey Group	508	-4	1.7	21.7
514	165	Filtronic Comp	508	-10	0.7	99.4
175	105	Forward Gp	165		5.2	39.9
100	40	Forward Tech	83		4.2	
391	299	GEC†	369	+1	3.9	17.2
111	110	Gcoship	110		4.5	10.9
141	75	Ind Control	110		4.1	21.8
34	14	Intelekt	31		3.2	39.3
122	50	Kodak	108	+5	1.1	
57	28	LPA Ind	56		3.1	12.9
265	211	MTL Instr'ts	260	+4½	3.8	
285	240	Mawer-Swf	285	-1	2.3	17.5
69	36½	Microvitec	58½			7.8
446	231	Mtnd	401	+11		
78	36	Nsemetics	70	-2	2.0	
475	315	Oxford Instr	466	-6	1.8	18.5
183	51	Pacer Systems	127		3.4	
123	73	Peak	121		3.6	
3321½	1998½	Philips Lmp ex	2634½	+18½	2.5	6.9
166	116	Pressnet	166	+13	3.6	16.4
186	96	Racal	166		2.8	13.9
54	23	Pendrick	36			
1035	243	Rexam	1015	+13½	0.5	
253	217	Racal Elect	235	+1	2.1	25.1
103	44	Redstone	97		2.3	21.5
449	285	Rensburl	270	+2	0.9	14.3
480	235½	Renishawt	480		1.8	19.2
11	6½	Radiox	5	+1		
288	202½	Redbond	277	+2	2.7	
330	252	Redcm	321	+2	2.8	21.7
11	6½	Redfern	5	+1		
1048	342	Scottish Mtrs	1029		0.7	15.6
129	95	Sensornet	128	+½	1.6	22.8
1095	221	Thorpe FW	243		2.1	14.8
38	16	Total Systems	28			29.1
357	257	Vantcol	357		1.5	16.6
700	350	Wadkin†	671		1.5	16.6
9	4	Wadkin Ld	9			16.0
280	239	Vinn	246	+1	2.4	17.5
465	368	Vosn	411		5.9	14.7
79	16	Wheelbourne	22			22.0
187	122	Wheelco	138		4.1	33.6

INSURANCE

1675	1175	Alex & Alexr	1319½	+25	5.0	
2487½	1787½	Am Sby	2312½	+18½	3.7	
107	76	Angerstein	100		4.2	51.5
93	58	Archos	84		2.3	20.1
1111	1000	Assd Britannic	1111		3.6	10.0
817	585	Britannic	786	+1	3.5	30.8
108	84	CLM Insce	102	+1	3.4	
694	472	Comm Union	685	+7	3.1	23.5
1675	1095	Gen Accdnt	1670		3.7	21.6
2011½	1594½	GRD 'B'	1971½		3.7	20.5
164	105	Fenchurch Grp	158		3.8	17.6
115	82	Finsbury Undrtr	113		1.8	16.2
2807	1986	Gen Accident	2737		3.7	20.4
1935	1604	Guardian	1917		3.9	33.8
79	59	HCR Lloyds	102	+1	3.9	33.8
249	145	Heath C E	168	-2	10.4	10.5
2992½	2037½	Hmsmoor

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grotland Apres	399.80	222.00	+ 2.00	0.22
Grotland Equity	273.40	290.80	+ 0.80	1.91
Grotland Euro	370.10	385.80	+ 4.20	0.45
Grotland Eqd Bd	129.10	133.80	- 2.20	6.72
Grotland Gilt	75.62	77.85	+ 0.03	6.35
Grotland Japan	177.80	187.90	+ 2.90	-

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01200 553 231

General Acc	636.00	675.60†	+ 0.40	2.65
General Inc	539.50	574.00†	+ 0.30	2.86
Uk Growth Acc	431.30	458.50	- 0.50	2.80
UK Growth Inc	367.40	395.80	- 0.20	2.89
Higher Inc Acc	778.80	828.60	- 2.60	4.24
Higher Inc Inc	633.40	461.10	- 1.40	4.24
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	204.40	215.60†	- 0.10	5.70
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.44	96.58†	- 0.03	5.70
Nth America	367.20	390.70	+ 3.60	-
Pension	350.60	373.00†	+ 5.00	0.51
Brit Except	85.60	91.07	- 0.06	3.02
Brit Patentic Acc	113.50	120.80†	- 0.10	4.84
Brit Fndmtls Inc	77.76	82.72†	- 0.13	4.84
Global Opps	161.30	167.60	+ 1.10	0.25
Balanced Acc	82.15	86.12	+ 0.12	2.71
Balanced Inc	59.48	63.28	+ 0.12	2.71
Japan Acc	47.70	50.75†	+ 0.92	-
Pac Basin Acc	427.50	454.80	+ 4.60	0.76

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	127.00	134.80†	- 0.40	7.42
High Inc Equity	180.70	193.50	+ 1.00	4.78
Worldwide Bond	288.90	306.30†	+ 2.30	4.57
American Growth	362.80	388.00	+ 3.80	0.72
Asian Pacific	348.90	373.20	+ 4.10	0.55
Access & Earnings	298.10	318.20	+ 1.20	2.75
Euro Capital Acc	177.50	189.80	+ 3.00	0.54
Extra Inc	44.18	47.00†	+ 0.06	6.55
General	271.50	290.80	+ 0.80	2.58
Global Opps	65.75	69.95	+ 0.76	0.43
Japan	126.90	135.70	+ 2.20	-
Managed Inc	47.80	50.65†	+ 0.16	4.57
Mastertrust	164.90	176.40	+ 1.70	1.34
US Emerging Cos	197.60	210.20	+ 2.00	-
Ethical	79.40	84.47	+ 0.28	2.47
International	127.00	135.80	+ 1.90	0.78
Developed & Equasp	67.14	71.43	+ 0.35	4.30
Global Gwth & Sec	72.31	77.26	+ 0.14	2.54
Latin America	58.17	62.95	+ 0.85	-
Capital Reserve	142.60	142.60		4.91

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Un Small Cos	2130.00	2216.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	59.05	61.31	+ 0.40	0.50
Emerging Mkts	73.03	77.14	+ 0.67	0.04
Europacific	148.50	152.40†	+ 1.80	-
Exempt	1010.00	1081.50	+ 2.60	1.72
Extra Income #	46.28	49.78†	+ 0.01	6.83
Far East Exmp Eqn	134.40	141.10	+ 1.00	0.44
Fixed Interest #	23.66	24.77†	- 0.04	9.48
Fixed Inv Tst	154.30	162.00		9.60
Japan	185.50	193.00	+ 3.80	-
Latin American	54.32	56.69	+ 0.50	0.86
Pacific	87.99	92.39	+ 0.79	0.20
Property Shares	63.94	67.21	+ 0.10	2.62
UK Emerging Cos	70.11	75.39	- 0.05	1.64
UK Growth	50.91	53.84	+ 0.01	2.18
Aber World Port #	81.49	82.90	+ 0.23	1.98
Ethical	76.78	79.65	+ 0.25	2.27
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.91	49.91†	- 0.08	7.52

For AECON see Matheson

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 9868

Restit Property #	94.19	101.20†		5.11

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annlty Income	86.16	91.42†	- 0.08	2.15
Income Builder Inc	78.50	83.51	- 0.06	2.83

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 810 356 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	268.50	287.00	- 0.70	3.24
Capital	478.80	511.80	- 1.40	1.23
Balanced	779.20	832.90†	- 3.60	2.56
Accumulator	1458.00	1560.00	- 6.00	1.96
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.13	64.19	+ 0.60	2.49
High Income	429.10	458.70†	- 1.90	4.13
Equity Income	243.10	259.90	- 1.00	4.07
High Yield	364.30	389.50	- 1.10	4.44
Gowt Securities	33.74	35.61	- 0.01	6.13
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	208.20	222.00†	+ 2.00	0.05
European Growth	49.84	52.88	+ 0.45	0.07
International	190.50	204.00	+ 2.00	0.11
Japan	306.50	325.80	+ 3.00	-
Pacific	434.20	464.10	+ 5.00	-
Secs of America	577.60	615.00	+ 5.40	0.13
Windle Assoc Val	56.30	60.16†	+ 0.63	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	587.00	638.10	- 2.00	1.58
Comm & Gill	46.48	49.68	+ 0.05	4.36
Smaller Cos	202.80	216.70	+ 0.70	1.03
2nd Smaller Cos	182.40	205.60†	+ 0.50	0.98
Recovery	163.60	174.80	+ 0.50	1.61
Met Min & Ody	179.70	192.00	+ 1.70	0.16
Overs Earnings	404.10	431.90	- 0.70	1.16
Technology	214.30	229.00	- 2.80	-
UK Special Sits	558.00	596.50†	- 0.40	1.05

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01253 626 911

Entrprs Dvt Pens	113.30	117.70		3.04
Founders Pens Pens	67.98	70.63		1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	79.13	84.18		1.68
International	69.71	74.16		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	327.50	351.40	+ 3.10	-
Bond	114.70	120.70	- 0.50	6.95
Brit Smlr Cos	117.80	125.30	+ 0.30	1.76
Comr & Gen #	70.58	75.09†	- 0.07	5.26
Europe	272.50	289.20	+ 3.60	0.57
Euro Smlr Cos	121.30	129.00	+ 1.30	0.61
Income Gwth	378.00	402.10†	+ 1.10	3.89
Japan	328.90	350.00	+ 4.80	-
Latin American	79.35	84.32	+ 1.24	0.94
Pacific	120.60	128.30	+ 1.60	1.15
Uk Smlr Cos	60.13	64.15	+ 0.13	1.25
Japan Fd	876.80	697.80†	+10.70	-
Mngd Fd	199.80	212.10	+ 0.50	2.60

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8573

Bnl & Overs	365.10	386.10	-	0.93
Capital Gwth	125.30	132.50	-	2.45
Worlds Opps	222.90	235.70	-	0.87

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bish Inv Fd Inc	407.70	424.60	+ 1.90	2.56
European Bd Inc	94.60	97.92	+ 0.28	6.65
Exempt	79.13	84.31	-	3.82
Financial	95.18	101.80	+ 0.40	2.44
500	493.70	533.80†	+ 1.30	2.53
General	311.20	332.20†	+ 1.60	2.57
Property	241.02	258.50†	-	5.29
Trustee	214.80	229.80	+ 0.80	2.38
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.10	101.10	+ 0.10	5.36
Extra Income #	133.70	143.00	+ 0.30	4.84
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.60	58.69†	- 0.21	6.32
Income #	572.40	612.20	+ 0.40	4.78
Income Builder #	87.75	72.27†	- 0.09	5.47
Intl Income	70.46	74.95	+ 0.60	3.02
Growth Trusts - Uk				
Capital	134.50	143.40†	+ 0.30	2.17
Leisure	166.10	177.60	+ 0.40	0.88
Recovery	474.10	507.10	+ 1.70	2.72
Smlr Cos Inc	53.62	57.50	+ 0.13	2.09
Special Sits	354.30	389.60	+ 2.70	1.41
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	172.30	183.10	+ 1.20	0.21
Asst Acc	285.30	304.80	+ 2.80	2.12
Asst Inc	172.60	183.70	+ 1.60	2.12
Euro Gwth Inc	184.30	195.40	+ 3.40	0.58
-do- Accum	193.60	211.10	+ 3.80	0.59
Japan & Gen Inc	159.80	169.70†	+ 2.80	-
-do- Accum	161.60	171.10	+ 2.80	-
Japan Spec Sits	72.90	77.35	+ 1.25	-
Worldwide	197.10	209.30	+ 2.80	0.56

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
01771 214 1004

American Growth	128.70	133.80	+ 1.00	-
Amer Smlr Cos	158.50	170.60	+ 1.70	-
Convertibles	58.49	62.79†	+ 0.01	4.90
Eastern	326.40	352.30	+ 2.90	0.30
Equity Income	92.70	98.53	+ 0.13	3.58
European Growth	359.40	384.70	+ 4.50	0.80
Europe	325.30	348.00	+ 6.20	1.50
German Growth	87.25	92.55	+ 0.67	0.50
Global Bond	69.56	73.10	+ 0.17	4.67
Global Growth	147.80	157.40	+ 2.00	0.40
Japan Growth	205.40	219.20	+ 3.40	-
Japan Sunrise	164.10	174.80	+ 2.60	-
Korea Trust	75.01	82.24	+ 0.24	-
Portfolio	152.40	162.50†	+ 0.40	2.20
Pacific	256.60	285.50	+ 0.70	2.30
UK Growth	94.80	101.90	-	2.60
UK Smlr Cos	99.98	97.97	- 0.04	2.50
Select Managers	87.62	93.91	- 0.44	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

Intl Gwth Dist Inc	88.90	94.57		
Special Oppor Inc	61.42	65.34†		

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	131.44	139.09	+ 0.58	1.40
-do- Accum	150.39	159.15	+ 0.67	1.40
Smaller Cos	142.89	151.20	+ 0.67	0.61
Higher Yield #	53.57	56.68	+ 0.25	4.86
American Gth Inc	97.16	102.80†	+ 1.34	-
European Growth	160.47	169.81†	- 2.09	0.08
-do- Accum	163.84	173.37	- 3.05	0.08
Global Bond Inc #	97.30	98.29	+ 0.09	7.25
Mngd Pnsn Inc	51.54	54.52†	+ 0.57	1.27
-do- Accum	53.12	56.19	+ 0.58	1.27
Ind Spec Oppor	159.57	168.86	+ 2.17	-
Pacific Gwth	166.10	175.79	+ 1.97	0.10
UK General #	89.49	94.70	+ 0.47	2.91
-do- Accum #	94.21	99.69	+ 0.50	2.91
Japan #	61.47	65.05	+ 1.07	-
Gilt & Fixed Int #	97.29	100.92†	- 0.38	8.50

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	64.27	66.09†	- 0.18	6.52

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Environ	182.40	194.00	+ 0.80	1.75
Uk Growth	196.00	208.50†	+ 0.70	2.02
Uk Income	144.50	153.70	+ 0.70	4.30

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 632 100

Can Gen Dist	225.40	239.00	+ 0.90	1.66
-do- Income Dist	121.70	129.00	+ 0.10	3.88
-do- Accum	383.00	406.00	- 0.30	3.88
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.92	41.94†	- 0.14	6.48
Growth Units	237.70	254.20	- 0.10	2.18
Bond	168.40	178.60†	- 0.60	7.68
Intl Growth	249.80	264.80	+ 3.80	0.25
North American	250.40	265.30	+ 2.30	0.21
Far East	326.10	348.80	+ 3.60	0.68
Uk Smaller Cos	215.00	229.90	+ 0.50	1.00
European	96.83	102.70	+ 1.70	0.65
Japanese Growth	48.67	51.53†	+ 1.17	-
High Income	208.70	223.00†	- 0.50	4.19

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	212.00	225.30†	+ 2.60	-
European Inc	93.87	99.34	+ 1.15	0.72
Smaller Cos (4-1)	99.36	105.71†	+ 0.27	1.38
Growth	513.50	547.20†	+ 3.60	1.72
Income & Growth #	446.00	474.90	- 1.00	3.86
-do- Accum #	659.20	701.30	- 1.40	3.86
Japan & Gen	71.23	75.61†	- 1.65	-
Master Portfolio	1113.7	1117.50	+22.90	2.09
-do- Accum	2138.60	1143.15	+41.80	2.09
Special Sits	119.40	127.10	- 0.10	1.80
High Yield	114.52	114.97	- 0.00	4.31

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	97.91	104.41		2.42
American Portfolio	118.47	125.70		0.91
European Portfolio	125.57	133.63		0.63
Pacific Portfolio	180.65	172.10		1.41
Uk Inc & Growth	93.73	100.16		2.85
Utility & Bond	57.40	58.05		6.58

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	733.07	744.09		4.35
Fxd In Sec	151.30	151.80		9.25

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	731.42	742.48		4.26
Investment Acc	1352.62	1372.11		9.13
Fixed Int Inc	175.45	175.96		
Fixed Int Acc	213.35	214.22		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5866

Blackmail Ind	87.60	92.74		3.20
Black Bio-Tech	47.77	51.45		
Accnt Ethical Fd	173.99	182.88		0.69
City Fin Assets	78.48	82.41	+ 1.65	1.96
City Fin America	115.48	121.27†		0.02
City Fin Intl	93.43	98.11		
City Fin Japan	148.00	155.41		
Financ Hse Cap	320.05	340.48	+ 5.18	2.20
Financ Hse Inc	200.50	213.30	+ 0.19	4.17
Buckley World Gwth	148.93	157.86†		
Fulcrmd Cap Gth	191.79	196.78		
Fulcrmd Inc	161.66	170.38		1.58
J Sal Inc/Gth Inc	57.83	60.73		

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Agents: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	58.87	62.46†	+ 0.29	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	78.79	83.82	+ 0.63	
Dragon Growth	75.63	81.10	+ 1.12	0.32
Equity High Inc	88.14	93.77†	- 0.37	4.28
-do- Accum	124.07	131.99	- 0.52	4.28
Extra Income Inc	25.81	27.17	- 0.08	7.85
Extra Income Acc	37.18	39.61	- 0.09	7.85
European Gwth	62.63	66.65	+ 0.86	1.00
Evergreen	30.04	32.12	+ 0.34	0.02
General Equity	98.11	104.10	+ 0.60	2.98
Japan Growth	51.23	55.03	- 1.08	-
Delegrm Gwth	60.23	64.07	- 0.09	2.54
Pnd Sm Cos Inc	36.28	38.60	+ 0.05	1.46
-do- Accum	38.31	40.65	+ 0.05	1.46
Retirement Inc #	27.55	29.31	+ 0.16	5.95
Special Sits	45.95	48.88		2.01
Uk & Overseas	58.14	61.89	+ 0.54	0.75

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Balanced	86.26	88.93	+ 0.21	4.08
Capital	79.36	82.45	+ 0.01	1.94
High Income	49.73	51.73	+ 0.23	7.33
Top 50	53.48	55.63	- 0.04	2.19

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
01481 708 888

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	181.99	193.61	+ 0.05	4.52
Fixed & Convertible	40.80	43.40	- 0.06	6.70
Monthly Inc Plus	48.18	51.25	- 0.17	8.74
Preference Share	46.68	49.66	+ 0.25	7.65
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.33	141.73	- 0.11	5.73
Managed Fund	78.01	80.86	- 0.30	2.91
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	48.19	51.27	+ 0.41	1.58
-do- Accum	56.09	59.67	+ 0.47	1.58
Uk & General	82.16	88.04	+ 0.06	2.61
Uk Growth	118.29	126.83	- 0.08	2.61
UK Growth	174.65	186.01	+ 0.20	2.17
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	212.28	225.83	- 2.89	0.11
Far Eastern Gnth	144.06	153.26	- 2.41	-
Global Bond	84.66	89.98	+ 0.77	5.68
Japan Growth	119.83	127.48	+ 2.95	-
North Amer Gnth	232.91	247.78	+ 3.84	-
Oriental Growth	86.60	94.26	+ 1.21	0.06
Worldwide Growth	75.66	80.48	- 0.97	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.52	93.52	+ 0.04	5.45
Homemaker Fund	90.14	95.89†	+ 0.11	1.58
Quilter Fund	149.95	159.52†	+ 0.42	1.96

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5866

Consistent UT	34.76	37.23†		3.33

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	176.40	187.70	+ 1.20	1.23
Income	99.87	74.12	- 0.17	5.22
European	72.39	77.01	+ 0.65	0.45
Recovery	171.50	182.40†	- 1.40	1.53

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	924.60	938.90		3.48

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

Fellowship Tst	101.70	108.10†	- 0.40	1.39
Income #	277.70	295.90	- 0.10	4.05
-do- Accum #	712.80	758.30	- 0.30	4.05
Smaller Cos	219.90	233.90	+ 0.60	0.98
-do- Accum	311.60	388.10	+ 0.60	0.98
Inv Portfolio	97.29	103.50†	+ 0.40	1.64
High Inc Port #	79.59	84.66	- 0.07	4.21

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1644.90	1702.80		
Japan Small Cos	1244.40	1288.50		
UK Small Cos	2060.60	2135.60		2.89
US Small Cos	2043.50	2084.30		0.99

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8619

Disc Inc	226.40	238.30		2.98

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	332.90	341.00	- 5.20	0.62
Far East	243.80	249.80	- 3.80	0.22
Japan Growth	113.60	121.00	+ 2.90	-
Jap Smlr Co	461.00	490.90	+ 8.00	-
Nth Amer	390.80	412.50	+ 1.30	0.71
Uk Inc & Gwth	242.50	259.60	- 0.30	2.78

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

Uk Balanced Inc	161.30	171.50	+ 0.70	1.86
Uk High Inc Inc	168.90	179.20	+ 0.30	3.81
-do- Accum	222.20	237.50	+ 0.40	3.81
Uk Prof & Fl Inc	57.87	61.50	+ 0.21	6.01
Emerald Opps	97.29	103.50	+ 0.50	0.97
Uk Smlr Cos #	65.04	69.19†	+ 0.06	0.80
Extra Income Inc	46.82	49.80†	- 0.22	6.71

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 080 525

American	175.20	185.60	+ 1.40	0.43
Convertibles #	22.00	23.38†	- 0.02	5.99
Equity Income #	138.00	146.60†	- 0.70	4.09
Exempt	69.75	73.83	- 0.26	3.82
Financial	53.55	55.83	+ 0.20	1.61
Growth & Inc #	274.00	291.10†	- 0.20	2.92
High Dist #	174.20	185.10	- 0.20	4.59
International	447.40	475.30	+ 4.50	0.66
Int Cap Gwth	104.40	111.40	+ 0.20	2.51
Latin American	30.93	32.86	+ 0.52	-
Pacific	90.37	96.02	+ 0.94	-
Prof High Inc	21.72	23.08	- 0.03	7.15
Tokyo	237.30	252.00	+ 4.10	-
Uk Smaller Cos	253.20	269.00	+ 0.10	1.12

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0842

Gilt Edge Dlgs	108.74	115.81	+ 0.77	1.42
Growth Acc	249.50	266.61	+ 0.65	0.95
Income	588.83	624.51	+ 1.07	5.04

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	225.10	238.50		0.95

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01294 451 480

European	92.71	97.59	+ 1.08	1.86
Ethical Tst	48.14	50.67	+ 0.40	0.95
Far Eastern	324.19	341.25	+ 3.86	1.53
High Income	138.76	146.06	- 0.99	4.73
UK Index Tracking	47.65	50.17	+ 0.06	2.19
Intl Growth	137.01	144.22†	+ 1.54	0.33
North American	142.47	149.97	+ 0.83	1.46
Pelican	134.26	141.35	- 0.34	3.16
Smaller Cos	70.88	74.61	+ 0.30	0.21
Special Sits	95.24	98.15	+ 0.04	2.70
Tst of Inv Tsts	207.09	217.98	+ 0.60	1.14

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
01271 4072 5866

Smaller Cos Inc	211.94	225.47	+ 0.68	1.26
Smaller Cos Acc	375.08	399.02	+ 1.20	1.26
Recovery	53.80	57.23	+ 0.15	1.47
Recovery Acc	98.11	98.63	+ 0.15	1.47

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	93.87	99.05	+ 0.12	-
Fd of Inv Trs	90.70	93.56	+ 0.14	0.54
High Income #	39.15	40.88	- 0.07	11.25
Warrant	51.98	56.50†	+ 0.28	-
Zero Preference	41.49	44.02	+ 0.07	-

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Assets Tst	86.45	91.96	+0.720	3.09
Family Income Tst	47.26	47.28	+0.180	5.05
Family Trust	96.80	103.00	+1.200	2.37
United Charities	286.40	304.60	+1.400	2.46

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callthru' Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	37.26	37.351	- 0.09	7.31
Intl Bond	29.64	30.96	+ 0.26	5.42
Income Funds				
High Income	25.25	26.98†	- 0.09	5.43
Income Plus	122.20	130.00†	- 0.20	4.07
Amer Ex Inc	61.78	65.42	+ 0.57	1.35
European Income	49.24	51.80†	+ 0.57	2.74
Far East Inc	66.79	70.96	+ 0.96	2.32
Global Convertible	75.04	78.62†	+ 0.17	2.63
UK Div Gnth	28.82	30.76†	- 0.02	2.21
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	72.96	77.83	+ 0.56	-
European	329.60	349.20	- 2.50	-
Amer Spec Sits	181.60	193.50	- 2.10	-
Japan Smaller Cos	35.70	38.09†	+ 0.63	-
European	218.50	232.40	- 1.60	0.58
European Opps	76.97	81.84	+ 1.03	0.13
Global Prv	90.99	92.96	+ 0.37	0.68
UK Growth	114.60	121.90	+ 0.70	1.11
Growth & Inc	165.40	175.90		2.75
Intl PEP	45.29	48.16	+ 0.21	1.05
Japan Spec Sits	92.61	98.71	+ 2.12	-
Japan	185.50	196.80	+ 3.60	-
Managed Intl	339.80	361.10†	+ 4.20	0.41
Managed Index	64.62	68.93	+ 0.43	-
Recovery	36.59	60.18†	+ 0.67	1.29
South E Asia	188.40	199.90	- 2.00	0.58
Special Sits	672.70	715.30	+12.20	0.64
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	113.53	113.53	+ 0.04	5.50

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	149.30	152.10†		1.75
Inc Plans #	93.15	94.72†	- 0.04	3.63
Cap Plans	158.80	161.60	+ 0.70	1.10
General Opps	137.00	138.70		2.86
Growth Inc	35.81	36.50	+ 0.03	0.58
Private Portfolio	475.60	484.70†		1.11

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 680 366 Accnts/Aval 01277 850 350

Euro Smlr Cos	143.50	152.70	+ 2.20	0.25
Emrg Asian	161.10	172.30	+ 0.40	-
High Income	21.67	23.00†	+ 0.01	9.78
Uk Income	110.40	117.80	+ 0.40	4.79
US Smaller Cos	402.50	432.10	+ 4.70	-

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01721 4072 5866

-do- Inv Tst Inc	78.67	82.72†	+ 0.05	4.13
Investment Incs	105.05	111.52†	+ 0.10	-
UK Smaller Cos	101.87	107.12	+ 0.41	0.95

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511

American Growth	77.95	83.08†	+ 0.42	-
-do- Accum	77.95	83.08†	+ 0.42	-
Amer Smlr Cos	651.50	696.80	+ 3.80	-
-do- Accum	686.50	711.80	+ 3.70	-
Capital Tst	371.20	394.90†	+ 0.50	1.22
-do- Accum	542.30	576.90†	+ 0.88	1.22
Cont Smlr Cos	64.67	68.98	+ 1.00	0.77
-do- Accum	68.25	72.78	+ 1.04	0.77
Convertible	139.20	147.00	+ 0.30	5.11
-do- Accum	293.10	311.80	+ 0.30	5.11
Emerging Markets	69.60	74.06	+ 0.47	-
-do- Accum	69.63	74.61	+ 0.48	-
European	143.10	151.70	+ 2.40	0.47
-do- Accum	150.50	159.60	+ 2.70	0.47
Extra Income	373.20	397.00	- 0.70	3.85
-do- Accum	580.80	617.90	- 0.40	3.85
Financial	161.00



■ VISUAL ART 1

Ranging through the deranged: quirky and exotic art from young Americans at the Saatchi



■ VISUAL ART 2

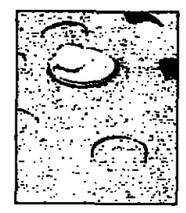
Derek Boshier, former Pop Art pioneer and exile in Texas, returns with a new London show

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Brighton-based painters stake out their *Territory* in an intensely colourful display



■ VISUAL ART 4

. . . while at Kettle's Yard Judith Cowan deals in the bare rudiments of sculpture

VISUAL ART: **Richard Cork** admires the dark humour of young Americans at the Saatchi Gallery; plus other shows

Salute for scars and stripes

Lying on the floor with a mattress resting on her swollen head, a woman talks excitably to an unseen companion. The rest of the large room is deserted, making her seem even more isolated and mysterious. Is she trapped under the mattress, or hiding away from the world? Does the companion really exist, or is the woman conducting a deluded monologue with herself? These are the questions nagging in our minds as we stare down at her, and listen to the manic outpourings of a mind on the edge of madness.

Tony Oursler, the artist responsible for this alarming work, is the most powerful contributor to *Young Americans Part II*, the latest exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery. A former video artist, he now projects talking heads on to dummies and endows them with an uncanny amount of conviction. The woman under the mattress, played by Tracy Leopold, seems disconcertingly real. As she swings from anger and fear to an almost orgasmic level of pleasure, the intimacy of her voice turns viewers into voyeurs.

Oursler's other room in the exhibition, containing several more of his deranged people, bears an unsettling resemblance to a darkened asylum. One woman, lying at the base of a wall where noxious smoke rushes upwards, is able only to gaze around through enlarged eyes and groan. But at least her reaction seems to be an accurate assessment of the predicament she endures. Nearby, a grim and crazed figure with outsize head jammed on to an empty jacket and trousers, insists against all the evidence that "I have never felt better in my life than I do now".

Using simple mini-projectors and lighting as restrained as the green lamp glowing softly behind the dark-suited figure suspended in a corner, Oursler endows his garrulous loners with a haunting amount of conviction. At first sight, the diminutive figure sprawling in an open suitcase seems nothing more than a doll. But once her alert, expressive face starts talking, and using a different voice for each disconnected statement, the artificial gradually becomes real. Her plight grows painfully acute as she complains, in a panic-ridden falsetto, that "I can't see a thing in here".

Taken as a whole, Oursler's cast summons up a world of forlorn misfits, reduced to conversing with themselves as a way of combating the helplessness and isolation of their existence.

His bleak vision becomes even starker in the long white space inhabited by Kiki Smith's sculpture. At one end, *Daisy Chain* sprawls across the floor, its central cluster of bronze body fragments encircled by steel chain shaped into petal-like outlines. The delicacy of these contours does little to counter the suspicion that they have shackled the head, arms and legs.

> "There is a willingness to keep on laughing in the dark"

Wholeness is restored at the far end of Smith's space, where *A Virgin Mary* stands on a plain block with hands held out to display her open palms. But the impression of sturdiness soon gives way to the realisation that the Virgin is naked, and her skin has been flayed. Bones and sinews stand exposed on the meaty surface of the bronze, while the veins flowing down her forearms are picked out in silver.

Spirituality is combined, in this challenging figure, with a surgical exploration of bodily facts. Half deity and half anatomical model, the Virgin conveys both ethereal grace and physical vulnerability. Elsewhere, though, Smith concentrates more on frailty. In *Trough*, a plaster cast of a pregnant body has been sliced in half and hung, open and hollow, on the wall. The fullness of her swollen stomach contrasts with the emptiness of this container-like form. It looks alarmingly breakable, like the plaster cast of a hunched figure lying in a foetal position on the floor. But both these sculptures are fortified by a sense of purity. They seem ready to hold water for washing, and their whiteness holds out the baptismal promise of renewal.

As Smith is a Catholic, she probably intended her plaster figures to embody a sacramental quality. But she is equally capable of delving inside the body's murkiest passages, and coming up with a sculpture baldly called *Intestine*, which stretches a bronze image of the digestive organ across a panoramic expanse of wall. Bizarre, grotesque and comic, it sums up Smith's determination to ignore taboos and investigate every aspect of the body.

Although Charles Ray shares Smith's overriding interest in the human figure, he concentrates on its external form alone. In 1973, when still a university student, he took 16 modest colour photographs of himself wearing every item of clothing in his possession. Standing to attention in a sequence of shirts, jeans and shorts, the long-haired Ray looks like a suspect in front of a police camera.

But by 1991, his interest in garments and bodies had produced a far more spectacular and streamlined work. Rearing to a height of 8ft, a monumental woman stares at us confrontationally. Power-dressed in a puce jacket and pleated skirt, she rests talon-like painted fingers on her hips. Ray based this daunting apparition on a normal-sized shop-window mannequin. By blowing it up to the size of a colossus, Ray transformed the conventional model into a predator. But by retaining the awkward prong which supported the original mannequin at the back, Ray reminds us that this fearsome titan is, in the end, only a dummy.

The two painters in the show seem far more elusive, and oddly subdued. Richard Prince, whose earlier work focused on the most glamorous aspects of American life, has now gone to the opposite extreme. His recent pictures, where silkscreen and acrylic are combined with scrawled words, are wilfully grungy. They exude decrepitude and despair, a mood reinforced by the messages written in sad, shaky capitals: "Every time I meet a girl who can cook like my mother," runs one inscription, "she looks like my father." In one jaundiced painting the words take on the desperation of a talking head by Oursler: "My parents kept me in a closet for years. Until I was 15 I thought I was a suit."

No messages can be detected on Jacqueline Humphries' large expanses of linen. She is committed to oil paint alone, and her involvement with predecessors such as Jackson Pollock and Clyfford Still is clear. Confining herself to blood-red, coursing down the picture surface in thin streams, she makes abstractions redolent of random marks on street walls. Ultimately, though, they are too tasteful and controlled to achieve the raw anger that Humphries seems bent on conveying.

Finding them unable to sustain my attention for long, I turned back to the more disconcerting emotions conveyed by Ray's eerie mannequins, Smith's dismembered bodies and Oursler's marooned monologists. They reveal the most desolating aspects of late 20th-century life, the American dream turned into nightmare. But they do so with inventiveness and mordant humour; a willingness to keep on laughing in the dark.

● Young Americans Part II *at the Saatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, London NW8 (0171-624 8299)*.



"A world of forlorn misfits, conversing with themselves": Tony Oursler's *Hysterics* (1994)

AROUND THE GALLERIES

In James Lee Byars's *Monument to Language* an enormous gold orb stands alone in the gallery like a giant Christmas tree bauble on a decorative gold stand. Lines from Yeats are recited, or read out, by someone actually inside the ball. Only a certain number of people are allowed into the space at any one time, and this contributes to an atmosphere of reverence. The expressed wishes of the artist, who lives in Texas, are an absent but crucial part of the process.

Since the 1960s Byars has organized occasions, happenings and gatherings, calling himself a "momenteer". An event earlier this month at the Temple of the Four Winds at Castle Howard in Yorkshire saw a small invited group gathered in the howling cold to listen to four philosophers from four parts of Europe address the question "What is Question?" The occasion was a worthwhile test of artistic faith for the few involved.
Henry Moore Institute, 74 The Headrow, Leeds, (0113 234 3158) until Saturday

☐ Where once she might have used a combination of photographs and sculptural objects to suggest an emotional sense of place or occasion, Judith Cowan now seems to use a combination of elements in order to set up a number of propositions. It all seems almost educational: stacks, boxes, shelves and blocks fashioned out of ordinary MDF occupy the floor, while photographs describing elements of a basic narrative hang on the walls. Cowan rigorously squeezes and simplifies her own work till only the rudiments of sculptural language are visible. Her use of material may seem to owe more to the use of head than heart, but Cowan knows there is no separating the two.
Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124) until April 21

☐ Any initial sense of familiarity created by the geometric paintings, reliefs and watercolours by Malcolm Jones soon gives way to something else. The rich deep colouring on the relatively small-scaled rectangles — chrome yellows, deep reds and blues — is intense and strikingly at odds with the more usual primary palette of pioneering Modernist painting. On the back wall of the gallery, a number of small richly painted canvases are arranged like pieces of mosaic, ordered according to some private logic.
Kingsgate Gallery, 110-116 Kingsgate Road, London NW6 (0171 328 7878) until March 31

☐ The sculpture tracks across the ceiling of the two front rooms, runs along the ceiling of the corridor and on into the back gallery. A mixture of solid tubular elements, bulbous concrete shapes and modelled flowers spreads with quirky logic in all directions. Jefford Horrigan has been making extended, sexual, flower heads for years, often installing them in surprising contexts, but this time he takes the opportunity to provide a complete vision. His peverse marriage of imagery makes a strange kind of sense. It hints at natural and unnatural growth, merging diagram with illustration, and stands in an unusually appropriate scale to its surroundings.
Adam Gallery, 62 Walcot Square London SE11 (0171 582 1260) until Sunday

☐ *Inner London* is a mixed exhibition curated by David Gilmour. In the overblown, cast bronze souvenir trinkets by Steve Johnson that straddle the middle of the gallery space, Nelson's Column is leaning seriously sideways, St Paul's is a rounded block, and Big Ben has a huge key ring or bracelet loop at the top. Paul Winstanley's paintings, taken from a couple of black and white photographs of the entrance hall to a block of flats, are painted with great smoothness and extended over a large scale. Catherine Yass shows lightboxes with photographs of the interior of Smithfield market. Alex Hartley shows photographs of tower blocks in stylish boxes with cloudy glass fronts. The outstanding work in the show, however, is a series of photographs taken outside the Houses of Parliament by David Griffiths at a time of heightened political activity and media attention. It is impossible at first to make out what is happening, although the images are reminiscent of agitprop theatre stills, black and white posters, or crime fiction bookcovers. In fact the photographs show politicians and commentators being interviewed at night, with lights shining on their faces and blackness all around.
Delfina, 50 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 (0171 357 6600) until April 14

SACHA CRADDOCK

Finally back in the swing

Roger Berthoud talks to Derek Boshier about life, travelling, art and his one-man show in London

Derek Boshier, 58 years old, tallish, slim, curly-haired, fast-talking but soft-spoken, has always been restless. "I've been much more interested in life than in art," he said when we met at his old stamping ground, the Royal College of Art, where he teaches part-time. The RCA was the chief fount of the Sixties Pop Art movement, of which Boshier was, with David Hockney, Peter Blake, Peter Phillips et al, a leading figure. Characteristically, when it was still swinging and exploitable, he disappeared on a scholarship to India for a year.

Boshier subsequently travelled widely, in Eastern Europe, the Far East and America, exploring film, photography and other media and continuing to be involved in leftish political activism. The surprise was not that he accepted a teaching post at the University of Houston in 1980, shortly after reverting to painting, but that he stayed for 13 years. Now is he re-entering the London art scene with his first one-man show since his return three years ago.

It was, he realised in Houston, time to move on. He had always been irritated by British visitors who asked him whether he didn't miss English pubs: in fact he loathed them, partly because his parents had run several back home. Then suddenly he found himself listing ten things he missed about England: Marmite, Bovril, Kingsbury Episcopi in Texas. "In the Fifties and Sixties art school opened up the only possibility for working-class kids to get a further education, based on artistic rather than academic skills. At that time my parents lived in Basingstoke, quite near Aldermaston, and I became sort of involved in the anti-nuclear movement." He has, he says, always striven to make his work "socially orientated, in the broadest sense".

His method has been to draw heavily, and often sardonically, on newspapers and advertisements. His new paintings refer either directly or obliquely to events such as the Bulger murder case, the Waco holocaust, and the big IRA bomb in the City. Often they feature a dominant rectangle of a single colour which seems to squeeze the action, portrayed in black and white photographic images, to the periphery. "What I'm trying to do formally is to flip the traditional relationship between the foreground and the background, so that the action is sort of hidden or reversed."

One of his favourite images since the early Sixties is of a falling man, a sort of Everyman, which he once adapted photographically for a record cover showing his friend and collector David Bowie spread-eagled. "It's a free-floating thing, a symbol of liberty, of countering gravity, of freedom." Boshier's restless preoccupation with humanity, with "the amorphous us", as he puts it, remains undimished by his move to Somerset. His next show is on a kibbutz in Israel. He will go on seeking to regenerate himself as an artist. As he puts it: "I'm interested in what I don't know, in finding out. Life is a gift."
Derek Boshier's recent paintings are at Connaught Brown, 2 Albemarle St, London W1 from March 22 to April 20.

MICHAEL POWELL



Boshier: missed pavement, landscape and humour

Forward to basics

Christina Koning on a Brighton show that deals in timeless themes and unfashionable materials

The artists included in *Territory*, a mixed exhibition that opens in Brighton's Phoenix Gallery tomorrow, might be inclined to reject such labels as "Sussex Expressionists" or "post-Bombergians". But both descriptions have their uses as a way of linking the range of different approaches to landscape represented in the work of these Brighton-based painters and sculptors.

Most of the artists are former students of Dennis Creffield, himself a pupil of Bomberg. A bold fluidity in the handling of pigment combined with a predilection for intense colour characterises many of the works, evoking echoes of Bomberg's paintings of landscape — as his works in turn evoke those of Cézanne.

The show is full of illuminating contrasts. Jane Mefield's vibrant Greek landscapes show what can be done with planes of pure colour; Dave Cook's *Merry Be* — one of the few figure paintings in the show — is more graphic and energetic (as befits its subject, a pageant from a Sussex mystery play). At the other end of the spectrum, the tonal subtleties of John Foyle's *Eucalyptus Tree* seem more in the tradition of Impressionism than the Abstract Expressionism to which Cook's painting alludes.

By the same token, the nervous energy of John Taylor's red and white landscape, *Overflow*, seems poles apart from the fluid serenity of Sophie Reason's *From the Phoenix, in Spring*, and yet both works epitomise what this show is all about — exploring the seemingly limitless versatility of paint, and the ways in which it can be used to embody a whole range of responses to landscape.

John Leach's *Scree Slope, Wales* displays a monumental approach to its subject which is also to be found in other works in the show, notably Julian Le Bas's lyrical seascapes. Don Doody's *Irish Landscape*, which overlays the landscape of the South Downs with a veil of Celtic mysticism, and Bob Stone's *Blue Storm*, a study of clouds massing over a French mountainside, typify the Expressionist mood of a number of the works, whose concern seems as much with internal as actual landscapes.

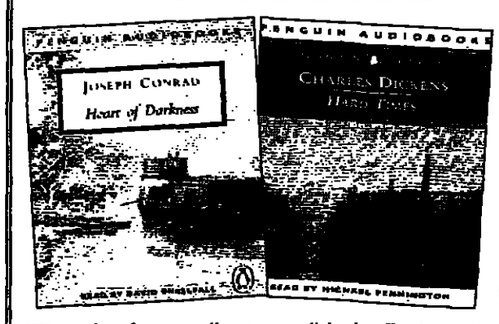
The Russian-born Tanya Litvinov (represented here by *Brighton Townscape with Figure*) has described her fellow artists as "by no means naturalistic realists" — and certainly none of this work, despite its commitment to the forms of the real world, could be characterised as slavishly representational.

There is a dogged traditionalism about painting in oil on canvas this late in the 20th century — something of which the group's members are very much aware. The show's manifesto speaks of the need to transcend the traditions of the past in order to forge a new kind of experiment, one free of the gimmickry and nihilism which characterise so much recent conceptual art. "Only painting is truly subversive," Foyle says. Looking at the vitality of the work of display here, it is not hard to see what he means.

● Territory, *Phoenix Gallery, Brighton (01273 603700) from tomorrow to April 13*

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES AUDIO BOOKS
TOKEN 9



CHOICE 1

Opening night for Maria Friedman in Sondheim's musical *Passion*

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen's Theatre



CHOICE 2

Valery Gergiev conducts Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

THE TIMES

ARTS



THEATRE 1

New York raves as the cult hit *Rent* transfers the *La Bohème* story to a loft in Manhattan



THEATRE 2

New Age or Old Camelot? Muddle rules in a wacky musical, *The Strangest Meeting*

THEATRE: Puccini transported to the Lower East Side, plus limp London fringe offerings

A Bohemian in the Big Apple

Rent
NYTW, New York



Love in a freaked-out climate: Adam Pascal as former junkie Roger, Daphne Rubin-Vega as stripper Mimi

Rent has become the talk of New York. Not the exorbitant prices locals pay for tiny apartments (although that *is* always a topic) but *Rent*, the New York Theatre Workshop production of a new rock musical version of *La Bohème*. Tickets for the show, in a 150-seat theatre, are hotter than lava.

As *Hair* did almost 30 years ago, *Rent* embraces multiculturalism, sexual freedom and antimaterialism. Unlike *Hair*, however, it arrives with tragic overtones. Its creator, Jonathan Larson, died of an aortic aneurysm on the final night of rehearsals in January. He was only 35.

Rent transplants *La Bohème*'s characters to New York City's Lower East Side. Living in an unheated loft are Mark, a video artist, and his friend Roger, an aspiring composer. Their friend Collins, a black man, is HIV positive, as is his new-found flame Angel Schunard, a Latino transvestite. Meanwhile, Mark's former girlfriend, Maureen, has recently dumped him for a black lesbian named Joanne. Only Mimi is still Mimi, although she loses a stash of heroin instead of a key.

Larson's artists face a harsher world than Puccini's. These are not colourful street vendors but homeless wanderers in overcoats and knitted caps (costumes by Angela Wendt), moving through Paul Clay's set of cinder blocks and metal piping. Sex and jealousy are still powerful forces: Fredi Walker's gentle but tortured Joanne suspects Maureen (Idina Menzel) of flirting with certain rubber-clad women, while Adam Pascal's explosive Roger, a former junkie, tries to resist Daphne Rubin-Vega's sexually aggressive Mimi. For a junkie and a stripper in an S&M club, Rubin-Vega's Mimi is more winsome than one might expect.

However, *Rent* has its imperfections. Mark and Roger's espousal of the principle of never paying their rent smacks of immaturity or special pleading for artists. It is hard to join in their scorn for Benny, their former roommate-turned-landlord, played by Taye Diggs with forbearance. (His "akita named Evita" was driven to bark itself to death by Angel's drumming, in one of the best comic twists on Puccini.) Satires on a perky talk-show hostess and of overly solicitous or self-absorbed parents are facile. At its best, though, *Rent* mingles humour and heartbreak. When Roger and Mimi's medical beepers go off simultaneously, each realises that the other is taking AZT for HIV.

Larson's score includes love ballads, rock, gospel and even a tango, although a couple of the songs have lyrics of numbing banality: "The earth turns, the sun burns . . ." But such imperfections are offset by the cast's fierce passion and talent. Warts and all, *Rent* is a musical theatre watershed which confirms that Larson was an important artist.

Rent closes next Sunday but will reopen on Broadway on April 29.

EDWARD KARAM

Square pegs connect with round tables

A TIME you thought dead and buried is back to haunt you in **The Strangest Meeting**. Arthur, a City speculator, is taking a country stroll. His vaguely hippy fiancée Jennifer is disgruntled. Next thing you know, Sir Lancelot is rearing his head out of an ancient well which he apparently shares with a foursome of weird sisters, formerly pagan maidens ravished by King Arthur's Christian knights.

Today they are ecologically irate. Our contemporary Arthur plans to quarry their mountain to build a motorway. Jennifer, being in touch with nature and stuff, hears the warnings of the erstwhile virgins. Soon she and the supposedly entrancing Lancelot are getting steamy.

Finally, the earth goddess whom the well-dwellers worship gives Jennifer a choice. She can carry on living with Arthur the Un-Green or bed down with Lancelot and Co, who muddily represent the elemental forces of the land and/or an orgiastic sect of New Age campers.

Stiffly written by Jean Robinson, this revamped myth is stuck in its own time warp. The basement studio of the Baron's Court Theatre is mysteriously trapped somewhere in the Seventies. The ladies of the well curse in incantatory rhyming couplets while writhing around in extra-large T-shirts. Lancelot minces about in mime-shoes trying to act like a wicked bit of rough. No one knows where to look, although they all glare significantly.

The Brits of the Dark Ages obviously hadn't *quite* got musical theatre down to a fine art. The rhyming couplets bowl along with all the smoothness of square wheels. Lady Guinevere, launching into her love number, hits rocky patches. Still, her song seems to inspire Lancelot, who drops to his knees and crawls about flexing a selection of limbs in retarded motion.

LONDON FRINGE

HAVING made a name for himself as a novelist, Dublin-born Dermot Bolger has been turning his hand to plays of late. His first stage piece, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, arrived at the Edinburgh Festival in 1990. It won a *Scotsman* Fringe First, the Samuel Beckett Award, and was broadcast on Radio 4. Last summer, Bolger took home another Fringe First for *The Holy Ground*.

In the light of all that, you might expect better from **Baby Jean** (at the BAC, Battersea). But there are only booby prizes for this confusing and embarrassing melodrama about poisoned neighbourly relations in suburban Ireland. Bolger's three-hander — a string of threatening scenes between the parents of a pregnant schoolgirl and the white-collar middle-aged rapist from next door — is presumably meant to be charged with menace, suspense and emotional explosions.

Unfortunately the frightful goings-on at the Farrells' place resemble the Borgias doing their worst in a semi-detached. Mrs Farrell seethes and spits and insinuates that Redmond the rapist could "disappear". Her husband is to be found trussing and blindfolding his former buddy, who incidentally has an obliging habit of losing consciousness. The inflamed Mr Farrell, clearly a tame civil servant no longer, is soon flicking his lighter inches from Redmond's shirt, which he has savagely doused with Martini.

This play does have a stab at tackling serious issues. It considers the Irish and ethical dilemmas: frustration, age, alcoholism and abortion: anger and guilt; the hostilities and sympathies between male friends and between a mother and her teenage daughter. Designer Soraya Allison's split-level house has potential, with its pokey bedroom and quietly dreary downmarket lounge.

However, the script gets into a pickle. Cryptic allusions to past misdeeds are more bemusing than intriguing. Mrs Farrell's overwritten maternal monologues do not ring true. However, equally to blame is this unpolished staging by Lucid Productions (a stupendous misnomer). John Gunnery's Redmond nervously gabbles his lines when he should be reeling drunk, casually nasty or dangerously unstable. Meanwhile, Christopher Dunne's Farrell, supposedly in the throes of outrage, stands around limply yelling "Get out of here". Sound advice.

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

TAKEMITSU TRIBUTE: Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra follow last Friday's concert with a second piece of the Japanese composer's exquisite and original work: his *Toward the Sea II* is paired with Mozart's Piano Concerto (Lars Vogt the soloist), and Vaughan Williams's Pastoral Symphony. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

PASSION: Opening night for Michael Ball, Maria Friedman and Helen Hobson in Sondheim's latest musical: set in 19th-century Italy where a young soldier is torn between his mistress and his colonel's intriguing, isolated cousin. Jeremy Sams directs. **Queen's**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

STAR-STUDDED BERLIOZ: Valery Gergiev, the brilliant chief conductor of the Kirov Opera, takes up the baton for tonight's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performance of Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust*. Soloists are Olga Borodina, Giuseppe Sabbatini and Sergei Aleksashkin, with the combined forces of the Royal Choral Society and Brighton Festival Chorus. **Albert Hall**, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

ABERDEEN: Scottish Ballet continues to dazzle audiences with one of its best programmes for quite a time. The romantic jewel *La Sylphide* is complemented by Mark Baldwin's new ballet *Ae Fond Kiss*, which takes its title from Burns's poem and its inspiration from Stravinsky's *Divertimento* from *Le Baiser de la Fée*. **His Majesty's**, Rosemount Viaduct (01224 641122). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm.

HIGH WYCOMBE: The Swan's two-month dance season comes to a close with the most innovative *Swan Lake* seen in years: Matthew Bourne's striking reinterpretation for his **Adventures in Motion Pictures** company. Adam Cooper and Fiona Chadwick lead some of the performances, with the superb all-male corps de ballet. **Wycombe Swan**, St Mary Street (01494 512000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: Dublin's Abbey Theatre goes on tour with its superb production of **Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme**, Frank McGuinness's classic about camaraderie under hellish fire. **Royal Court** (0151-709 4776). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2pm.

Also in Liverpool, Ariel Dorfman's stunning South American political thriller, **Death and the Maiden**, opens tomorrow. Peter Rowe directs Patti Love, Kevin Costello and Oliver Haden. **Everyman** (as above). Previews tomorrow and opens Thurs, 8pm. Until Apr 20.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward:** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery:** Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall: Illuminated transparencies (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **1953:** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. An interesting conceit that nearly works. Impressive acting. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Final week.

☐ **AFTER THE RAIN:** Catalan playwright Sergi Belbel's 1994 play, set on an office rooftop where employees gather for an illicit cigarette. Sounds more accessible than some previous offerings in the Gate Biennale. Gaynor MacFarlane directs. **Gate**, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Previews tonight, Wed, and opens Mar 28, 9pm. Until Apr 13.

☐ **CHAPTER TWO:** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers inching towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best. **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

◪ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED):** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues. **Criterion**, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm; Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm.

■ **FROGS:** Fiona Laird's production of Aristophanes that misses many of the original points, including the life-or-death issue of moral inspiration. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Apr 1, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **LADY INTO FOX:** Intimate musical by Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield based on David Garnett's mysterious, chilling novella. Starring Louise Gold and Dale Rapley, with Bloomfield at the piano. **Lyric Studio**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Previews tonight and Wed, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm; until Apr 20.

■ **SKYLIGHT:** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

☐ **A TALENT TO AMUSE:** The words and music of Noël Coward, brought to life with skillful, sometimes mischievous charm, by Peter Greenwell. **Vaudeville**, Strand (0171-836 9987). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; Wed, Sat, 3pm.

◪ **TOMMY:** Hugely expressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) . ■ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . ☐ **Communicating Doors:** Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ◪ **Fame: The Musical:** Cambridge (0171-494 5083) . ☐ **Funny Money:** Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . . . ◪ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ■ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18): Over-forceful portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scent of Green Papaya*. Tran Anh Hung. **MGM Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

JEFFREY (18): Should a gay man have sex? Life-affirming comedy falls flat. With Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director, Christopher Ashley. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

TOY STORY (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Director, John Lasseter. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) EL4

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elizabeth Shue. **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U): Michael Radford's heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi. **MGMs: Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-389 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3566) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the Shallow Grave team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner. Director, Danny Boyle. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

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■ DANCE

The Arts Council has new schemes to lift the profile of dance — but where will the money come from?



■ MUSIC 1

John Drummond takes charge of his own tribute concert, and adds a twist of Gallic

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2

In from the cold: Andrew Davis puts forward a persuasive case for the *Sinfonia antartica*



■ TOMORROW

Stars in Salzburg and astonishments in Aix: *The Times* previews Europe's top summer festivals

OPERA

Music as the food of lust

CHABRIER was particularly good at writing "music to make babies to", as he so charmingly put it, and while the specific point of reference was his soft-porn cantata *La Sulamite*, there are several passages in the improbably named grand opera *Gwendoline* that bring such activities to mind.

The eight-minute entr'acte and the long, rapturous wedding scene are especially suggestive of rumpled sheets, and I dare say a physiologist could map out a chart equating Chabrier's step-modulations with various states of arousal.

So much is beyond dispute; the great mystery is why *Gwendoline* (1896) ever won the reputation of being Wagnerian. There is a fleeting reference to Brangäne's Watch from *Tristan*, and that's about it: the rest is as French as a packet of Gitanes on a Sèvres plate in the Petit Trianon. Its ancestors are Berlioz and Gounod, its heirs the Debussy of *Pelléas* and all of Ravel.

Maybe it's the action, set as it is among warring Saxons and Danes in 8th-century Britain, with a hero who's been too busy with fire and sword ever to have met a woman, plus references to Valhalla and Odin.

The Chelsea Opera Group's rumbustious

Gwendoline
Queen Elizabeth Hall

concert performance on Sunday made a strong case for *Gwendoline* as one of Chabrier's most possible stage works. Unlike the incomplete *Brisés*, which stays up on a cloud nine of ecstasy for its whole duration, *Gwendoline* is full of variety — war music, wedding music, rustic music — and has a coherent dramatic shape.

The big tunes, the delicate spinning duet in which the Saxon heroine tames, Omphale-style, her Danish admirer (to the amazement of his followers, who are bent on traditional rape and pillage), the moment they fall in love (woodwind lines semi-chastely intertwining in semitones) — there is scarcely a duff bar in the score, and with less than two hours of music there is little time to worry about the ineffable Catulle Mendès's less-than-convincing libretto. The right analogy is Bizet's *Pearl Fishers*: the power of the music sweeps all doubts away.

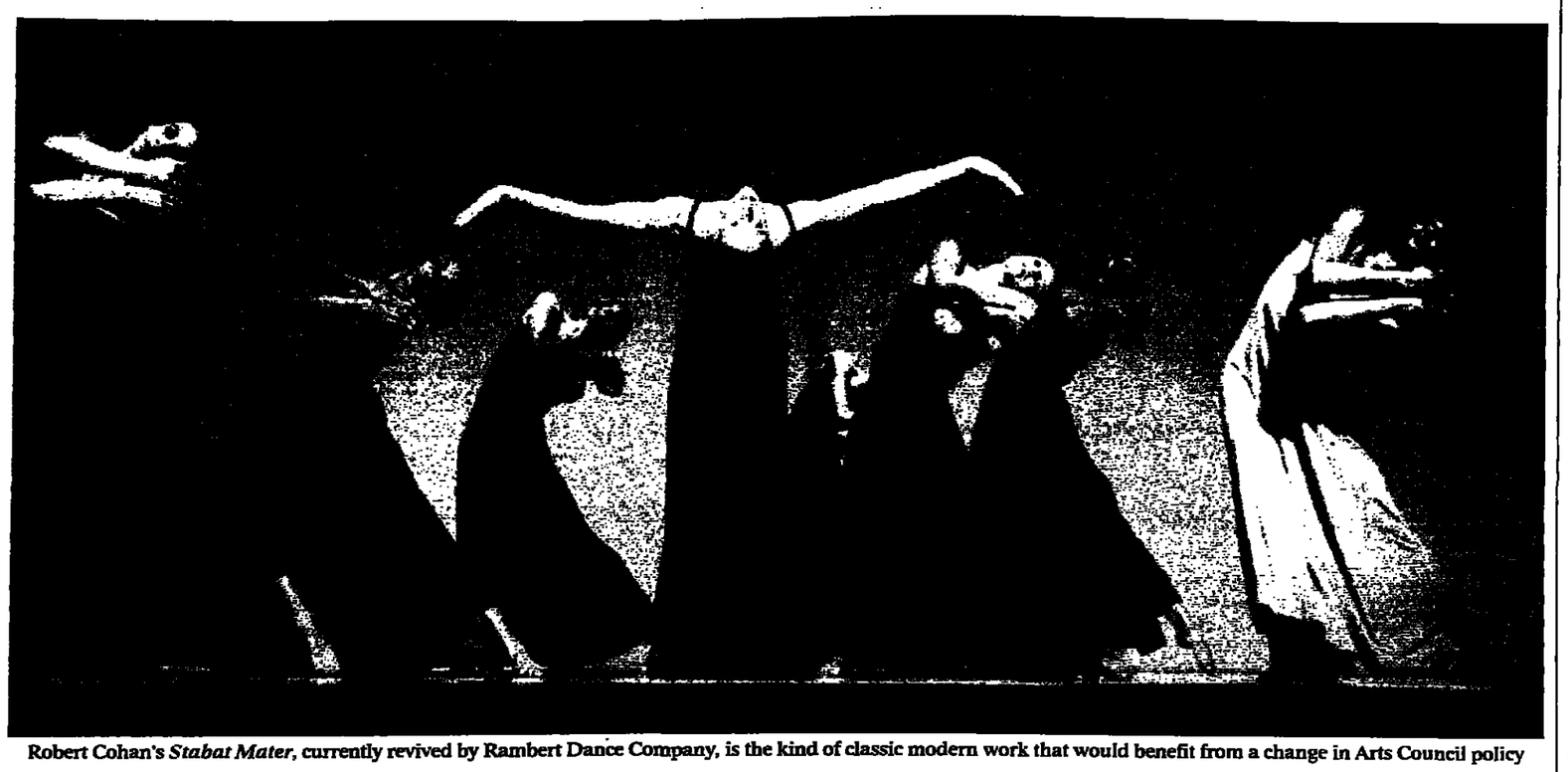
THE conductor, Andrew Greenwood, showed true understanding of the idiom, both its energy and its lyricism, catching its perfumed ebb and flow and really earning the assorted climaxes. He provided ideal support for the soloists, willing them to sing as expressively as possible.

Donald Maxwell, visibly fighting a heavy cold, sang heroically as the Danish hero, and in good, clear French. Christine Bunning was especially affecting in Gwendoline's gentler moments and rose fearlessly to the — I was about to write Wagnerian — finale. Ian Caley's tenor sounded authentically French as her devious father.

In an operatic world that was not restricted to revivals of *Tosca*, *Gwendoline* would be a prime candidate for a slap-up new production. It is a musical goldmine (or brothel, if you prefer).

RODNEY MILNES

The Arts Council launches a new policy today to secure a better deal for dance. **Debra Craine** reports



Robert Cohan's *Stabat Mater*, currently revived by Rambert Dance Company, is the kind of classic modern work that would benefit from a change in Arts Council policy

Ten cents a dance is no longer enough

The Arts Council has a new policy on dance. This morning Lord Gowrie will unveil an 18-page document that sets out to define the priorities for dance funding in England for the foreseeable future.

At this point you are probably thinking about turning the page. But wait. If you are one of the 4.3 million people who attend dance performances every year, read on. For this will affect what you see on stage.

Dancers are not very good at expressing themselves verbally. And neither, it seems, are dance bureaucrats. The report, *The Policy for Dance of the English Arts Funding System*, does not make terribly exciting reading. There are enough woolly generalisations and vaguely worded good intentions to deter even the most determined dance consumer. Yet buried inside are some eminently admirable suggestions.

The Arts Council wants to see a higher profile for dance, recognising that the art form needs to climb out of its self-imposed ghetto. So the new policy will be to increase the number of dance performances — even the number of companies — and find more theatres to put them in.

The Arts Council is reaffirming its commitment to the establishment of a flagship national dance house, but it clearly remains a long-term goal. In the meantime, more and better buildings for dance will be developed across the country to handle increased touring by the existing companies. And new performing spaces will be sought outside the traditional theatres — places like shopping malls, airports, or the concrete walkways of the South Bank.

The Arts Council will also work to improve the status and welfare of dancers themselves, traditionally at the bottom of the performing ladder. Working conditions, salaries, pension provisions and contracts will all be looked at.

The message is simple, says Hilary Carty, Director of Dance for the Arts Council. "Holistically, we are seeking a better environment, whether you are doing it or whether you are watching it."

What you are watching is also a priority under the new policy. There will be increased support for new work, but this doesn't mean *carte blanche* for self-indulgent choreographers. "Production needs to be balanced with consumption," says the report, "and companies will be encouraged to consider audiences' needs and marketing as an integral part of artistic policy." In order words, think about whom you're making dances for. Someone has to *want* to pay to see them.

> "The new policy will affect what 4.3 million people see on stage"

Neither is old work forgotten. Contemporary dance, especially, has been rather cavalier about shelving its past (classical ballet swings to the other extreme, eschewing the new in favour of the tried and true). There are few mechanisms for recognising our contemporary dance heritage and the Arts Council wants to see this situation rectified.

"A lot of companies are looking at revivals of their work and promoters are keen to see more revivals," adds Carty. "We can't afford to ditch our past." How true. As Rambert Dance Company's current revival of Robert Cohan's *Stabat Mater* proves, there was some outstanding work in the Seventies and Eighties that deserves to be seen again.

So the formula now looks like this: successful old work and better new work danced more often in improved theatres by dancers who are better paid. It all sounds wonderful. But where is the money to come from?

There will certainly be no increase in the Government's grant to the Arts Council — just the reverse, in fact. Already the dance department, which this year is pouring £23 million into the public funding of dance in England, is supporting fewer companies in an effort to fund them better. So all eyes will naturally be turned towards the only fat wallet in town, the National Lottery.

"We have to look at the lottery," says Carty. "There is a new direction for the lottery and dance companies have to keep their eye on the prize."

But the odds of claiming a big enough prize are almost as long as winning the lottery itself. Alternative sources of funding will need to be explored, both from the private sector and from local authorities. The report also applauds the growth in the number of promoters who commission dance, and says collaborations between promoters and dance artists will be encouraged. Earnings abroad are another possibility: with the support of the British Council, enhanced international touring and exchange could provide British choreographers and dancers with a larger marketplace for their work.

Meanwhile, the next few years will see major changes in dance provision in London with the closure and redevelopment of Covent Garden, Sadler's Wells and — possibly — the Coliseum. The Royal Ballet, for example, is spreading itself around four venues in the capital: the Albert Hall, the Coliseum, the Festival Hall and the Barbican Theatre, which plans to turn itself into a part-time dance house while the RSC decamps to Stratford.

In the enthusiastic race to score artistic points in time for the millennium, there will be a lot of competition for money and the public spotlight. Dance, which speaks with the quietest voice, will have to learn how to scream a little louder if it wants to be heard above the din. Maybe after launching its whispering new policy document today, the Arts Council's dance department can turn its attention to that priority.

COMEDY

Laughs in the isles

BEFORE the advent of *The Voice*, that feisty Brixton-based tabloid, Britain's leading black newspaper was the high-minded *West Indian World*. The routine there was fairly laid-back, as anyone who worked there will testify, and it was no great surprise when the paper finally closed. But on one point the publisher was implacable: West Indians were to be described, in print, as "Westindians", the idea being that in the less than welcoming Mother Country immigrants had to put aside inter-island rivalries.

A joy of Felix Dexter's act is the way in which he shows that beneath the inner-city accents many of the old instincts linger. Jamaicans tend to look down on Barbadians, Barbadians still regard Jamaicans as unruly and both often see the other "small islanders" as bumpkins.

Felix Dexter
Lewisham Theatre

Any rising black comedian is doomed to be hailed as "the new Lenny Henry". Dexter, whose monologues are the wittiest segment of BBC2's quickfire sketch show, *The Real McCoy*, does not yet have Henry's broad repertoire of characters, but has already marked out his own, more rootsy territory.

His most vivid creation is Nathaniel, the West African "student" who never allows his continual failure to pass his accountancy exams to undermine his self-confidence. No less than Alf Garnett, he cherishes his own set of stereotypes about Jamaicans, their BMWs and their women.

A master of dialect and nuance, Dexter shifts seamlessly between patois, Cockney and the Sloane banter of a self-satisfied public school "brother". His portrayal of a zealous Underground ticket inspector determined to stamp out "foolishness" is poignant and amusing, teasing out the differences in attitudes towards authority of the first-generation immigrants and their grandchildren.

But when he moves away from race altogether, he is astonishingly funny in the best tradition of robust, colour-blind humour.

CLIVE DAVIS

CONCERTS: Tribute to John Drummond; South Pole rediscovered; numbers add up for Avanti!

French with few tears

BBC PO/Tortelier
Free Trade Hall, Manchester

AT A concert given in his honour by the BBC Philharmonic, Sir John Drummond might have been expected to smile benignly from his seat at the front of the circle and, at the end, offer a modest wave to the audience and orchestra.

In fact, no: he opted instead for the rather more conspicuous role of presenting the programme from the platform, introducing each item with engaging urbanity and only the occasional indication that an outstandingly successful Controller of Radio 3 and director of the Proms does not have to be an infallible musicologist as well.

The programme he compiled with Yan Pascal Tortelier — all of it French — was characteristically well designed and the choice of soloists uncommonly interesting. He could scarcely have done better than select Kathryn Stott, who blended the brittle and the expressive in exactly the right proportions in Ravel's Piano Concerto in G. Her precarious relationship with the evidently hard-pressed woodwind in the finale was no more than an authentic reflection of the composer's taste for living dangerously at the time he wrote it.

Maria Ewing's interpretation of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* was less convincing. After all, they are just songs, and not the operatic scenes she apparently wanted to make them, or some of them. Overemphasis and lingering introspection can cause a singer to lose touch with the melodic inspiration and rhythmic impulse of these pieces, just as Ewing did in *Sur les Lagunes* in particular. With such a persuasive personality and such resources of vocal colour available over a wide range, it was frustrating to hear the darker songs in the middle less well characterised than the comparatively playful ones that open and close the set.

The concert began with Bizet's Symphony in C, which Tortelier rather surprisingly treated as if it were early Beethoven rather than a charmingly modest item in a purely French tradition. It ended with the second suite from Roussel's *Bacchus et Ariane* where — in a performance remarkable for its wholeheartedly dramatic orientation and sustained energy — the BBC Philharmonic finally sounded at its best.

GERALD LARNER

Icy inspiration

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

AT A time when film music could be admired as an art as well as a craft, Vaughan Williams evolved an entire symphony from his film score for *Scott of the Antarctic* (1948). The *Sinfonia antartica*, as he called it, seventh of his nine symphonies, was long treated far too condescendingly on account of its provenance. But Andrew Davis, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, has now joined a handful of other conductors in the present generation to give the work its due.

His performance in this programme, one of the BBC's successful sit-where-you-like-for-£10-a-ticket concerts, gave the symphony all the spacious grandeur its pictorial element can take. But at the same time he probed the universal and philosophical significance embodied in it — of human endeavour choosing to confront implacable natural forces. Hence the chilling effect of offstage wordless women's voices from the BBC Symphony Chorus, and of solo soprano Patricia Rozario evoking the white wilderness with the brittleness of keyboard tone, while the wider range of instrumental sonorities created tone-pictures of ever-changing focus.

The balance of detail was securely woven and only the lack of sufficient forceful momentum in the scherzo movement and the epilogue detracted from the imposing effect of the whole.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Toru Takemitsu, most poetic of Japanese composers, who died last month. Dreams and images of water always stirred his imagination, and both were combined in *I Hear the Water Dreaming* which began the programme. A short, Debussy-like impressionistic rhapsody for flute and orchestra, it offered a limpid flute solo from Patrick Gallois, and delicate orchestral textures.

Between these works the Portuguese Artur Pizarro was a likeable piano soloist in Mozart's C Major Concerto (K503), notable for his clarity of articulation in rapid finger-work and decorative passages, unafraid to add extra embellishment where he thought it appropriate, and always exuding poise and confidence in making the solo writing tell. Davis ensured he had sympathetic and perceptive support.

NOEL GOODWIN

Finnish line to a promising future

Avanti!
Purcell Room

AVANTI! still deserves the exclamation mark which is an integral part of its name. The Finnish ensemble that can make itself small enough to play an avant-garde work for two drumsticks, or large enough to take on Beethoven's Ninth, visited London at the invitation of the Nash Ensemble to represent a lively Finnish quota within the Nash's enterprising 20th-century Music Series.

The group appeared in its incarnations as quartet, quintet, septet — even as soloist — and spanned three generations of Finnish composers. The central and by far the most important work of the evening was Magnus Lindberg's Clarinet Quintet. This classical work of 1992 carries Lindberg's boast that it contains the only slow movement he has ever written. However, as the quintet is in one, single hyperactive movement, this may well seem like yet another instance of the composer's laconic humour.

But there, among the whirring scale fragments which turn the clarinet (Kari Kriikku) into a miraculous hummingbird, and the dynamic processes which push the music to its extremes, is an off-centre section of almost unbearable suspense. This "slow movement" builds rather than releases tension, forcing a loud, long single note out of the clarinet before a climactic coda unwinds the music in playful simplicity.

This work, like Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, whose concert suite ended the evening, will surely stand the test of time. I am less sure about Usko Meriläinen's *Metamorfora per 7*, originally commissioned in 1968 as a little three-movement companion piece to the Stravinsky and, in its meticulously composed variations, sharing its instrumentation and something of its character.

Lindberg's contemporary, Kaija Saariaho, was represented by a piece of ephemera: the *Nocturne* for solo violin (John Storgards) which she wrote as a response to the death of Lutoslawski, even as she was working on her Violin Concerto, premiered at last year's Proms. A single note quivers out of silence into its own harmonies, and spends some six minutes as an uneasy spectre struggling for song, or even sound.

From Seppo Pohjola, a pupil of Lindberg, we heard the UK premiere of his Second String Quartet. This is a substantial work of tough, post-serial writing, challenging each instrument and tugging the listener between propulsive energy and sudden stasis.

HILARY FINCH

THE TIMES

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LAW

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Real time, false logic

David Thomas challenges one aspect of Michael Howard's new sentencing proposals, due out this week



When Michael Howard outlined at the Conservative Party conference his plans for tougher sentences, he also indicated plans for doing away with the system of early release of prisoners, and making them *serve their sentences in full.*

The move seemed to be part of a wider policy of getting tough on crime. It had one overwhelming drawback. If courts continued to pass the same sentences as at present, but offenders served the whole of the term rather than one half of the sentence, as usually happens now, there would quickly be a dramatic rise in the prison population. Precise calculations are impossible, but probably the number of people in prison on any one day would go up by *between* 25,000 and 30,000 within a period of about two years.

Clearly, it is impossible to expand the capacity of the prison system to this extent in such a short time, particularly with severe restraints on public expenditure. But it seems that Mr Howard's promise *has been misunderstood.* The objective — in the plan for "real time" sentences at least — is *not tougher sentencing,* but more honest sentencing.

The Home Secretary argues that the public is being misled by hearing a court pass a sentence of imprisonment for a number of years, without knowing what it really means. His solution is simple: make the sentence shorter, but make *the offender serve the whole,* or almost all, of the sentence. The public would then know exactly what the courts were doing in their name. What is wrong with that?

A great deal. The current system of early release is relatively new. It was put in place by the Criminal Justice Act of 1991 and came into effect in 1992. Unlike many of the changes in the law on sentencing *in the past decade this one* was based on carefully thought-out proposals, made by a committee chaired by Lord Carlyle, QC.

The new system has the virtue of simplicity and fairness. It divides prisoners into two categories — short-termers serving less than four years, and long-termers serving four years or more.

A short-term prisoner serves *half of the sentence* passed by the court: the second half of the sentence is suspended. If, however, the prisoner commits another offence during the second half of the sentence, he can be ordered back to prison to serve the remainder of the sentence. There is no remission for good behaviour; prisoners *who offend in jail have extra* days added to the time they have to serve.

A long-term prisoner is in much the same position, except that he or she is not entitled to release at the halfway stage; the offender may be required to remain in prison until two thirds of the sentence has been served. Whenever prisoners are released, they are liable to return to prison to serve the balance if they reoffend.

There is nothing dishonest about this. Anyone who takes a few simple steps can find out how it works. Anyone who can divide by two (or three in the case of a long-term prisoner) can calculate the real effect of any sentence. There is no hidden discretion in the case of short-term prisoners, and in the case of long-term prisoners it is limited to the choice between release after half and two thirds.

But scrapping this system in favour of one under which prisoners served the whole or almost the whole of their sentences would have grave consequences. The guidelines, tariffs and sentencing conventions by which judges are guided would be undermined. A complex structure of sentencing practices, developed over several decades by thousands of decisions of the Court of Appeal in individual cases, supplemented by judicial seminars, would be thrown away overnight.

Meanwhile, individual judges would find their own way. The result would then be unacceptable inconsistency.

In this respect, Mr Howard's proposed system would be far less honest than the system we have. It would also be more lenient. A person sentenced to three years' imprisonment now comes out after 18 months, with what amounts to an 18-month suspended sentence. *Under Mr* Howard's system, the offender would be sentenced to 18 months, serve 18 months and be released with no further sanction.

There is an easier way to achieve a sentencing system that is not open to any charge of deception. It does not require an alteration of the system, or even legislation. If judges were to explain the effect of a sentence when passed, nobody would be left in doubt about what it meant.

"The sentence is three years' imprisonment. That means that you will serve 18 months in prison. You will then be released, but if you commit any further offence during the next 18 months, you will be recalled to prison to serve the remainder of the sentence . . . "

A simple change of practice along these lines would surely clarify the system and make Mr Howard's legislation redundant.

● *The author is a barrister and the editor of* Current Sentencing Practice.

DO NOT PASS JAIL

☐ THE Home Secretary is expected to publish his White Paper this week. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, says the proposals will not deter offenders and will achieve nothing more than "a bonanza for prison architects". The White Paper will propose: minimum three-year terms for *persistent burglars, six years for repeat drug dealers;* automatic life sentence for second-time rapists and armed robbers; real-time sentences and ending automatic inclusion of time on remand as part of jail term.

Protecting the right to private passion

Earlier this month, the House of Lords gave a second reading to the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill. Baroness Turner's Bill would, if enacted, make it unlawful to discriminate *in* employment against a person because he or she is (or is thought to be) homosexual, lesbian or bisexual. The Bill will now be considered by the House of Lords in committee.

The case for legislation is overwhelming. Parliament has made it unlawful for employers to discriminate against employees, and prospective employees, by reference to a variety of characteristics which are irrelevant to an employee's ability to do the job: race, sex, marital status and (most recently) disability. To prohibit employers from taking decisions based on such irrelevant personal factors *promotes* both social justice and business efficiency. People's sexual orientation is as immaterial to their ability to do a job as is their race or sex. Yet discrimination against homosexuals and lesbians in the workplace remains common. Of course, legislation should not impose unreasonable burdens on industry. But for Parliament to do nothing *would aid and abet injustice.*



COUNSEL
DAVID PANNICK QC

The failure of politicians in various countries to take effective action against sexual orientation discrimination has led victims to seek redress from courts. Their lawyers have found that the right to sexual idiosyncrasy is not easy to defend in the passionless atmosphere of a court of law. The law depends on logical rules, but, as Pascal observed in his *Pensées* in 1670, "the heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of".

The extent to which courts have required the State to protect individuals from discrimination because of their sexuality, and to respect the right to private life, is the subject of an important new book, *Sexual Orientation and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, £40) by Dr Robert Wintemute, a lecturer in law at *King's College, University of London.* He assesses judicial consideration of the rights of homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals in three jurisdictions: under the United States Constitution, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

At one extreme of judicial responses is the dismissive reaction of the majority of the United States Supreme Court in *Bowers v Hardwick in 1986. By five votes to four, the* court rejected a claim that the Constitution confers a right for adult men to engage in private, consensual sexual relations without being prosecuted. Justice White concluded that it was "at best facetious" to contend that the constitutional notion of liberty confers "a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy".

At the other extreme is the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Dudgeon v United Kingdom* in 1981. The court decided that the prohibition on homosexual conduct between consenting adults in private in Northern Ireland was a breach of human rights because it "concerns a most intimate aspect of private life" and so "there must exist particularly serious reasons before interferences on the part of the public authorities can be legitimate".

The European Court has based its jurisprudence on the powerful theory that the State should protect people's fundamental choices as to how to live their private lives, unless there is a strong justification for interference. Surprisingly, and unpersuasively, Dr Wintemute prefers to analyse sexual orientation issues as an aspect of sex discrimination law. He cites, with approval, the 1993 decision of the California Court of Appeal that a publisher's refusal to include a photograph of a male ex-student and his male partner in a high-school class reunion picture book was unlawful sex discrimination because the publisher would not have objected if the former student's partner was female, rather than male.

Disappointingly, Dr Wintemute only assesses the case for finding prima facie violations of the rights of homosexuals and lesbians. He will need to produce another volume to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the justifications (such as morality, public health, the rights of others) which have been asserted as the basis for discriminating against people on the ground of their sexual orientation, or interfering with their right to private life.

In his book *Sex and Reason,* Judge Richard Posner of the United States Court of Appeals suggested that when judges decide cases about sex they "know next to nothing about *the subject beyond their own personal* experience, which is limited — perhaps more so than average — because people with irregular sex lives are pretty much (not entirely, of course) screened out of the judiciary".

Dr Wintemute's work is recommended to judges and politicians who wish to improve their education. It is a valuable contribution to the continuing debate about why and how *legal principle should protect the basic right* to private passion whether individuals choose to spend their evenings with their boyfriend, with their girlfriend, or with their stamp collection.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Election on the menu

ELECTION fever has already begun to take hold at the Law Society with the announcement by David Keating, a council member, that he will stand for the deputy vice-presidency at the next election. Mr Keating is a firm supporter of Martin Mears, the current president.

Meanwhile, Mr Mears has been spreading his message to the profession in person. Last week he was in Manchester, where he was reported to have made short work of a hearty cooked breakfast during a morning meeting with 50 members of the local Law Society.

By all accounts, he made a good impression. Anne Kershaw, the local president, says his "fresh approach" to the job is welcome.

● *Labour's competition policy will be spelt out for the first time tomorrow by Kim Howells, the party's competition spokesman, at a conference on bid lobbying sponsored by Lovell White Durrant and the Public Policy Unit. John Taylor, the Corporate Affairs Minister, will speak for the Government. Details: 0171-828 6088.*

China progress

THE BAR is hailing as "encouraging progress" recent reforms in China to the criminal justice system, including new rights for defendants and access to independent lawyers at an early stage after arrest.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, former Bar chairman, said the news comes after a series of visits by Bar leaders, including himself and Robert Seabrook, QC, his predecessor. If adopted, the reforms — making the system more adversarial — would be the first changes to China's criminal procedural law for 20 years.



Peter Goldsmith, QC: visits

Ethics check

A NEW institute has opened in Liverpool dedicated to tackling the thorny ethical issues surrounding medicine and the law, such as euthanasia. The Institute of Medicine Law and Bio-Ethics, attached to the university, is the first of its kind in the country and plans to teach a masters degree in the subject.

Carol Prescott, the administrator, says the institute is working on six research projects, but expects the number to grow as doctors and lawyers battle with the myriad ethical problems linked to medicine that are becoming more acute as resources to fund care dwindle. The institute is holding its inaugural conference at Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel on April 17.

Helping women

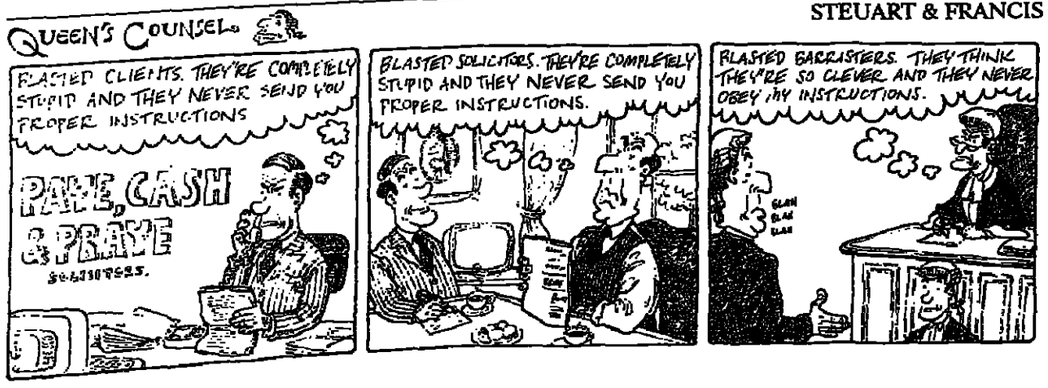
HARMAN & Harman, a Canterbury law firm, has been granted leave to take judicial review proceedings against the Legal Aid Board over the lack of legal aid for victims of domestic violence and intimidation.

Restrictions were introduced in 1994 and many women are now excluded from the scheme. Sarah Harman, senior partner, says: "Legal aid is not available, for instance, when a woman's former partner molests her by such means as telephone calls or stalking her at home or work. To restrict legal aid to situations where a woman has already suffered more than one recent serious assault is harsh and — we believe — unlawful."

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Chris Barton looks at the progress of a Bill with serious implications for the family

Divorced from the facts


NORMAN ROCKWELL/ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

Should busy divorce practitioners bother to keep abreast of the convolutions of the Family Law Bill, which reached the House of Commons yesterday after its out-of-town tour of the Lords? Or should they see what it looks like — if anything — after the Royal Assent? Perhaps they should wait until after the two years of pre-implementation trials. After all, what was the point of bothering with the 1991 Child Support Act before it came into force in 1993, or the 1989 Children Act before its 1991 activation?

In fact, family lawyers are not indifferent to the sight of divorce blowing about in the parliamentary wind. Their view of what is, and is not, important in the Bill is likely to be the very opposite of political, media and public perceptions. These last are concerned with the abolition of fault, and with the length of the period for "reflection and consideration", whereas divorce professionals are more worried about the de-lawyering of the process in favour of mediation.

It is going to be difficult for lawyers to persuade people of their impartiality in that respect; perhaps that leaves the importance of pension-splitting as the only common ground. In the House of Lords, Baroness Young remarked that "One can always find a lawyer to support any point of view that one puts forward . . . the more one pays them, the better they do it."

On the other hand, the Children Act Advisory Committee Report for 1994-95 spoke of family cases being conducted by "young and inexperienced barristers". Yet the cry of individual divorcing spouses, certainly those who can afford it, is likely to remain "Get me the best lawyer," rather than "Get the best mediator".

The pre-West End season in the Lords failed to iron out many of the difficulties, despite their Lordships' experience in legislating for divorce in 1670 in favour of one of their own number, Lord Roos. His 1996 successors turned their attention to the question of which harms children the most: their parents' unhappy marriage, their separation or the divorce. It now appears that the members of the Lower House, spurred by conscience or by a desire to parade as supporters of the family, are to be given a free vote to select 18 months or even two years as the waiting period in such cases, despite the Lord Chancellor's overall preference for only one year.

Lord Stoddart mentioned American disenchantment with their own previously liberalised divorce laws.

A similar transatlantic retrenching is reported in connection with "no fault" divorce. In 1969, the "happy divorce movement" in California claimed that the abolition of fault in divorce would save marriages, and yet nine states of the union are now restoring it, in the face of an average 26 per cent rise in dissolutions in those states that had done away with it.

Here Lord Ashbourne pointed out that the Family Law Bill, which would excise the already notional ground of "irretrievable behaviour", is more concerned with "no reason" rather than with "no fault" divorce. As family lawyers wearily point out to anyone who will still listen, we have already had the latter for more than 20 years, ever since the inaptly named "special procedure" was applied to all undefended divorce actions. The allegations in these petitions are not tried, effectively allowing for immediate divorce by consent.

It has become *de rigueur* to say that every "easing" of the laws since 1857 onwards has caused an explosion in the divorce rate, but Dr Martin Richards, of the Cambridge Centre for Family Research, argues that the recent (1960s-70s) worldwide reforms were a response to the increased demand for divorce, and not its cause.

In any case, the annual number of divorces in England and Wales has oscillated around 150,000-plus for the past ten years. And the special procedure has produced a median time of six months for adultery and "behaviour" petitions — which currently account for three quarters of all divorces. Some take as little as three months.

So there is no increasing demand for divorce, the Bill will increase the time taken (even with the 12-month period) and far from people waiting to avail themselves of it, they will be best advised to hurry up before it comes into force. The newspaper delivered at my servants' quarters is even suggesting that this factor is influencing certain particularly delicate negotiations that are currently in progress.

● *The author is Reader in Law at Staffordshire University.*

WOMEN LAWYERS

THREE leading women Queen's Counsel — Helena Kennedy, Cherie Booth and Laura Cox — are taking part in the second Woman Lawyer conference to be held on April 20. Other leading participants include Mr Justice Sedley, Mrs Justice Arden, Martin Mears, the Law Society president, and David Penry-Davey, QC. A few places remain for the one-day conference, sponsored by *The Times*.

● *Details: Blair Communications & Marketing, 0171-722 9731.*

☐ Women barristers are expanding their formal network through the Association of Women Barristers. The association is setting up groups — initially in Manchester, Nottingham and Southampton — for women practising on circuit: meetings have already been fixed for those on the Western Circuit (Southampton, April 19) and on the Midland and Oxford Circuit (Nottingham, May 3). The Bar has six circuits representing barristers outside London.

● *Details: Ms Hewson, 0171-404 1866.*

Young lawyers share expertise

Edward Fennell praises the British Council's European lawyers' scheme

The British Council may be in financial crisis, but it is still reckoned to be doing a good job for British lawyers. This was brought home yesterday when Macfarlanes, Clyde & Co and Wilde Sapte and other London firms took on some young European lawyers under a scheme operated by the British Council for the past 25 years.

In the next three months the European lawyers will learn about English law while contributing their expertise to the host firm. By the time they leave at the end of June, professional and personal relationships should have been formed that will serve both sides well for years.

Norton Rose, for example, will be looking after Eva Bigalke, a German lawyer. Celia Staples, the firm's head of personnel, says: "Germany is a country in which we have no office but lots of clients. We invited Eva to join us because she has relevant commercial experience and should be able to give us useful insights into the German scene. In return she will receive a thorough introduction to English law and have the opportunity to observe how a major firm like Norton Rose operates."

> There are fears about the project's future

The benefits are two-way. Though the visiting lawyers are young, they are all well qualified and already have already carved out impressive track records. Getting on to the scheme is very competitive and all have gone through a rigorous selection process in their local British Council office before being admitted.

Their standard of English is high. Emma Richards, the professional development executive at Richards Butler, says: "Taking part in the Young Lawyers Scheme is a good investment for this firm. Many of the lawyers who have taken part go on to take up senior positions later on. It is a very good way for us to build up a network of contacts across Europe with up-and-coming lawyers."

One of the firms enthusiastically taking part this year is the Anglo-German firm of Dabelstein & Passchl. Based within sight of London Bridge, it claims to be the first firm of its type to be multi-jurisdictional and offers German and English law as standard. It joined the programme, however, in order to build its links with Scandinavia. Christopher Chauncy, a partner, says: "As a shipping firm, one of the most important territories for us is Norway. Through the council scheme last year, we were able to take on a Norwegian lawyer for a very successful attachment, so we are doing the same this year."

Though not fee-earners during their stay, the young Europeans are expected to get involved in real work. Mr Chauncy discovered that his young Norwegian last year was able to help with details of Norwegian law that would otherwise have been time-consuming to research. In return, the young lawyers gain a wealth of experience in Europe's legal capital, which enhances their career prospects.

The scheme has developed an *alumni* network. There are many benefits. At the Law Society in London a fortnight ago Deloitte Touche, the accountants, launched *Law profile of Italy*, a book on Italian law written by a group of Italian lawyers who were former members of the scheme.

Backed by Martin Rose, from the British Council's Rome office, the lawyers had been brought together to produce the guide to coincide with Italy's European Union presidency.

Faced with the substantial cuts in the British Council's budget due to take effect next month, however, there are fears about the scheme's future. Ms Staples says: "We would lose this scheme at our peril."

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Forward looking and high profile medium-sized central London firm characterised by well organised and hands-on commercial property department, where you will enjoy first class prospects with around two years' pqe. You will have plenty of opportunity to shine in this environment, which offers informal style, excellent client and internal relations and top of the market remuneration.

SPECIALIST BANKING to £55,000

Internationally oriented practice with vast array of UK/multi-national banking clients now seeks 3-5 year qualified lawyer with buy-outs, derivatives, securitisation and international trade background. This role is a genuine pre-partnership position and will allow an ambitious technically skilled individual to really "make a difference". You will come from a leading City firm renowned for its banking work and be keen to escape from the bureaucratic partnership bottleneck and enjoy working with substantial autonomy.

EMPLOYMENT £38,000-£49,000

You will enjoy both contentious and non-contentious experience in the employment sphere ranging from service agreements to restrictive covenant disputes and TUPE-related work. This central London firm has an enviable reputation within this fast developing sphere of practice and provides plenty of responsibility for its assistants, particularly first rate senior fee-earners with 3-5 years' pqe gained in London or the regions.

TRADE MARKS to £65,000

Ideal opportunity for senior assistant in City law firm to head up department in progressive firm committed to substantial investment in this area of practice. In addition to being a qualified lawyer you should have passed the ITMA examinations and have substantial domestic and international trade marks experience as well as, ideally, licensing, distribution, passing off and trade marks litigation exposure. You will have a track record of success in developing client contacts and seek a more specialist environment to develop this further. Outstanding short-term partnership prospects.

For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 937 6894 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET. Confidential fax: 0171 588 7020.

KELLYFIELD CONSULTING

CORPORATE LAWYER

Shoosmiths & Harrison is one of the largest, most progressive and successful firms outside London.

We need a first rate Corporate Finance Lawyer to join the corporate team in our expanding Nottingham office. Applicants will have at least 4 years PQE and an excellent background with a major London or regional firm and be able to demonstrate transactional expertise across the corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions field.

The existing corporate finance team has advised on a range of transactions in the last eighteen months including a full listing, a relisting, an introduction to AIM as well as high profile management buy-outs and acquisitions.

The position demands a strong communicator with business acumen and the ability to work within a team environment.

For further details please contact Bob Cooper on

0115 9474645

or alternatively write to him at 22a The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DT

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The Chancery Bar Association

SPRING LECTURE

THE LAW : HIGHWAY OR BYWAY TO THE GLOBAL MARKET?

given by

Sir Colin Marshall

Sir Colin Marshall is Chairman of British Airways Plc and President-designate of the CBI

The Spring Lecture will be held at
6.00pm Wednesday 24 April 1996 in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

This is a public lecture and admission is free. The Chancery Bar Association welcomes everyone who is interested in the topic.

Any inquiries about the lecture should be made to the Lecture Secretary at 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2 on 0171-404-4800

Commercial Lawyer

Commercial Lawyer

Geneva

Our client is the supply, trading and risk management division of a multi-national company with offices worldwide.

An exceptional and key opportunity has arisen for a Solicitor with 3-4PQE to join this division's legal department. The position is based in Geneva.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record within a leading City firm. Experience of international sale/purchase contracts, commodity trading disputes or derivatives would be an asset but is not essential.

To be considered for this exciting role, please contact **Lucy Boyd**, our Senior In-House Consultant

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127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT
Tel: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

Commercial Lawyer

LIPSON LLOYD

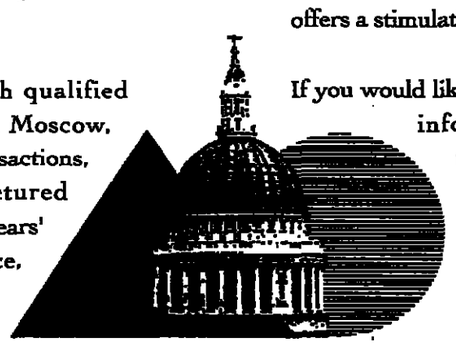
MOSCOW – BANKING

Allen & Overy's Moscow office has a growing presence in the Russian legal market, with a team of high quality Russian and English lawyers. As the Russian economy and legal framework develop, the number and range of finance transactions is increasing, and the firm enjoys both a significant share and a strong reputation in this market.

We now wish to recruit an English qualified banking lawyer to join the team in Moscow, working on a variety of banking transactions, including project and other structured finance. You should have at least two years' relevant post-qualification experience, gained with a quality City firm. Knowledge of the Russian language is not a prerequisite.

In addition to a very attractive expatriate package, we can offer a good working atmosphere with an emphasis on teamwork. Moscow itself is developing rapidly and offers a stimulating working environment.

If you would like to be considered, or would like further information, please write with full CV to Martin Pexton, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ, or telephone on 0171 330 4100.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

A high profile role for your legal expertise

Senior Corporate Lawyer

Job share 17.5 hours per week

£17,877 - £19,704 pa inc.

This senior position carries responsibility for supporting the Principal Corporate Lawyer in procuring and monitoring all legal services required by the Authority (including those delivered by the in-house team following competitive tendering) and advising on all matters concerning contract law (including public procurement), statutory powers and local government law. The work includes drafting contracts, contract procedures and disputes, contract compliance and competitive tendering.

We are looking for a highly qualified solicitor or barrister with at least 4 years' post-qualifying experience and up-to-date knowledge and practical experience in those areas of the law relating particularly to contracts and procurement. Good communication and presentation skills are essential as the duties include advising officers and members of the Authority at the highest levels. The Legal Branch relies on up-to-date computing facilities and case management software and you will have keyboard experience or be prepared to acquire the necessary skills quickly.

In return we offer an excellent package commensurate with the nature and status of this post. You are likely to work a pattern of three days one week and two days the next week.

For further details and an application form contact: Ms Eleanor Douglas, Selection Section, Room 809 Hampton House, 20 Albert Embankment, SE1 or telephone on 0171-587 6188 quoting reference FB58.

Closing date: 12th April 1996.

This is a politically restricted post within the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

We would particularly welcome applications from women, black and ethnic minorities who are currently under represented at this level within the organisation.

LondonFireBrigade

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Striving for Equal Opportunities

Major International Energy Company

LEGAL ADVISER

No Energy Experience Required
Outstanding Remuneration Package

Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest vertically integrated energy companies, with revenues of $9.2 billion per annum, world-wide assets of $14 billion and a 19% compound annual growth rate in earnings over the last five years.

A pivotal sector of the group's global operations, our Client is pursuing a progressive merchant business strategy in the UK and Europe. Our Client now seeks an additional lawyer to join its close knit legal team at its Central London offices. You will advise, in a national and international context, on all aspects of the division's projects and commercial ventures, which include energy infrastructure development, electrical power generation and marketing, the purchase, sale and processing of energy commodities, energy industry financing transactions and risk management activities.

You will have gained at least 6 years' post-qualification transactional experience in a major City law firm, and will have a corporate/commercial or finance background (no energy experience is necessary). You will be a hardened negotiator, pro-active, imaginative and capable of working closely with senior management in this fast moving environment.

In return, you will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact ***Greg Abrahams or Stephen Rodney on 0171-405 6062*** *(0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at* ***Quarry Dougall Commerce and Industry Recruitment,*** *37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.*

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SPL
SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

LEADERS IN THE SHORT-TERM MARKET

Time for a change? Consider this . . . .

CORPORATE FINANCE
Corporate Finance department of City firm require a solicitor with 3-4 years' pqe to join them immediately for a 3-6 month contract. Suitable candidates should have had previous experience in mergers and acquisitions and a working knowledge of the Yellow Book. *Ref 25866*

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
1-3 year qualified solicitor required to assist busy company commercial department of medium-sized West End firm. Candidates should have a broad range of experience in this field. Contract would be to start as soon as possible until September. *Ref 26936*

COMMERCIAL
Major telecommunications company seeks solicitor/barrister for office in South West. Candidates must have at least 3 years' pqe, broad based commercial experience (telecoms not necessary but would be an advantage), and be able to work without supervision. Immediate start for 3-6 months. *Ref 26806*

PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY
Medium-sized commercial law firm seeks an assistant solicitor to join their busy and expanding personal injury department. Up-to-date experience in road traffic act/plaintiff work required. To start as soon as possible. *Ref 26571*

EMPLOYMENT
Leading City firm require solicitor to join their employment department for maternity leave cover. Candidates must have 3-7 years' pqe and heavyweight employment experience, with an emphasis on contentious matters. Excellent opportunity for first class solicitor. *Ref 26930*

EC/COMPETITION
City firm need solicitor, with at least 4 years' pqe, to cover a maternity leave. Heavyweight experience in this area, together with a strong private practice background is essential. Work covered includes IT and telecoms, transport, newspapers and brewing. *Ref 26971*

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS
A leading media group, based in the North West, need a solicitor/barrister to join them from April to December. Candidates must be able to handle a broad range of commercial work including contracts, trade marks, employment issues and company secretarial matters. *Ref 26959*

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Major energy company require a solicitor to join them for a two year period. Candidates must have at least 3 years' experience in commercial property and planning matters. *Ref 27070*

For further information please call ***Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062*** *(0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at* ***Special Project Lawyer,*** *37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.*

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BARCLAYS

COMPANY SECRETARY

London **To £45,000 + Car + Benefits**

Barclays is one of the largest financial services groups in the United Kingdom. It also has a substantial international business and in total employs 100,000 people.

Due to internal re-organisation a new role has been created for a company secretary to manage a team which provides professional secretarial services to the company's principal subsidiaries. In addition to the broad-ranging company secretarial workload the team is responsible for setting secretarial standards for the worldwide group and for providing continuing support to UK business management.

This is a role which requires a dynamic individual with not only the ability to handle a challenging workload but also the vision to adapt to new developments. The successful candidate will therefore probably be a graduate and an ACIS who has obtained between 5 and 10 years company secretarial experience in a plc and is looking for promotion to a more senior role.

TAYLOR-ROOT
LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

If you wish to apply please send your CV to Nick Hedley at Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD or contact him on 0171 415 2828. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Taylor Root.

Compensation for the victims of violent crime

Members of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995 paved the way for the introduction in April of a new tariff-based criminal injuries compensation scheme, under which victims of violent crime will submit applications for consideration by the new Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. There will be a right of appeal to a new independent body, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel. The Panel will have a quasi-judicial role involving the disbursement of substantial sums of taxpayers' money.

You will sit – with at least one other adjudicator – to determine appeals; make records of decisions, and assist generally in the conduct of the Panel's business. You will be expected to commit between 40 and 50 days per year to the role for up to a week at a time. As panels will sit at regional centres throughout Great Britain, you must be prepared to travel and stay away from home when necessary. Although the hearings programme will be decided well in advance, some requests for attendance are likely to come at short notice and flexibility will be needed.

Your suitability for the post will be indicated by your high level achievement – for example through a successful senior career in law, medicine, commerce, management or public service. You must have well-developed skills of analysis and judgement, since you will need to interpret complex information, probe evidence, examine witnesses and come to sound, defensible conclusions. Your excellent communication skills will be an important factor in allowing you rapidly to develop rapport with people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Your fee will be £270 for each hearings day. Reasonable expenses will be met. Some preparatory work will be necessary, but this will not attract additional remuneration.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12th April 1996), please telephone **Recruitment & Assessment Services** on Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (24 hours) or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2854.

We welcome applications from candidates irrespective of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other irrelevant factors.

RAS

Which International Law Firm. . .

- Was the first foreign law firm to open an office in London (1962);
- Has concrete plans to increase substantially the size of its 27-lawyer London office as part of a long-term commitment of developing London as a main European centre;
- Advised on the largest single inward investment into the UK in 1995;
- Intends to expand rapidly its English solicitor population to 40% of its professionals worldwide;
- Has a full service office in London with particular strengths in banking and finance, corporate and commercial law, funds, arbitration and litigation, real property, energy and natural resources, privatisations and telecommunications/information technology?



For further information on the firm and what it can offer you, in complete confidence, please contact Christopher Sweeney or Gareth Quarry on 0171-405 6062 (0171-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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COUDERT BROTHERS

INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

Corporate/Private Client Tax
Banking/Asset Finance
Corporate/Commercial
Media/IP

The concept of professional support to fee earners within law firms has dramatically changed in recent years. Such has been our City firm client's commitment to this area that it has invested considerable resources to establish the function and promote it throughout the firm.

Opportunities now exist for individuals with expertise in one or more of the above areas to join the team which is dedicated to providing a service of the highest calibre. The roles will include maintaining and updating the computerised know-how database, updating fee earners on relevant legal developments and producing newsletters and bulletins for internal and external dissemination.

Successful candidates will either be fee earners with demonstrable interest in information/know-how work or information professionals with legal knowledge and/or experience. Other pre-requisites are a robust personality, a solutions orientated approach and excellent interpersonal skills.

The salary and benefits packages will be highly attractive and flexible to accommodate applicants wishing to work part-time or on a job share basis.

For further information in complete confidence please contact **Jonathan Brenner** or **Yasmin Phillips** on **0171-377 0510** (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Zarak Macrae Brenner**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail **jonathan@zmb.co.uk**

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INTERNATIONAL US FIRM
COMPANY/COMMERCIAL PARTNER
To £200,000 **London**

Our Client, a major US-based international law firm with a long-standing presence in London, seeks an enterprising company/commercial solicitor who will be attracted by the firm's unique selling points:-

- An earnings related remuneration structure which clearly reflects your contribution to the firm;
- The support of like-minded entrepreneurial and ambitious practitioners;
- An international client base; and
- Local firm independence within the framework of a major international firm.

Likely to be a partner at a leading firm, you have an opportunity to join a corporate/commercial practice established in the international/cross-border arena. **With an already developed client base, you will reap the full rewards of your success.**

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Christopher Sweeney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 or 0181-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. E-mail greg@demon.co.uk

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Corporate & Commerci ▼ Corporate & Commercial ▲

Corporate & Commercial
City - £Exceptional

Our Client is one of the most dynamic and progressive commercial practices in the City.

In the seven years since its inception, the firm has undergone rapid expansion and now offers expertise in every discipline of the Law to a domestic and international clientbase.

The Corporate and Commercial Department is now entering the next phase of its development, creating an opportunity for an enterprising and marketing oriented Solicitor to augment a team committed to providing a quality service at the leading edge.

The ideal candidate will have at least 7PQE and a proven track record at medium sized or larger City firms. He/she will be ambitious to play an integral role in the development of both the Department and the firm as a whole.

Rewards for the right candidate are comparable with and potentially superior to those offered by the largest City practices. To be considered for this exciting role, contact **Simon Lipson**, a Solicitor.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT
Telephone: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

Corporate & Commercial ▲ Corporate & Commercial ▼

LIPSON LLOYD JONES

Head of Legal ▼ Company Secretary ▲

Head of Legal Department
International Bank - City

Our client is a major bank with offices and commercial interests worldwide.

They now seek to recruit a Lawyer with around 10 PQE to head up a small Legal Department based in the City. He/She will advise on the full range of the bank's commercial activities including fund management, stock lending, repo, swap and IFMA agreements, derivatives, equity syndication, IT and insurance matters.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will eventually become Company Secretary and therefore skills and experience in this area are essential.

The ideal candidate will have significant relevant in-house experience although applicants from the Banking or Company/Commercial Department of a leading firm will be considered. He/she will possess strong communication and negotiation skills together with the drive and dynamism necessary to succeed at the very highest level.

To be considered for this position, contact **Lucy Boyd**, Head of LLJ In-House.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT
Telephone: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

Company Secretary ▲ Head of Legal ▼

LIPSON LLOYD JONES

Commercial Lawyer
Financial Services

Attractive Package **City**

Rare opportunity to join core legal team at the Group Head Office of prestigious UK-based financial services group with exciting plans for domestic and international expansion.

THE POSITION
- Report to Director of Legal Services. Provide effective advice, guidance and support to line management.
- Focus on reviewing, drafting and negotiating high value, complex commercial contracts with significant IT bias.
- Advise on all aspects of legal matters of large financial services group including company/commercial law, venture capital, investment management and financial services legislation.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Solicitor with 2–4 years' PQE, gained in private practice or in-house. Strong analytical skills.
- Broad experience of general commercial work, ideally with exposure to IT documentation.
- Excellent communication skills to win respect at all levels.
- Committed team member yet capable of operating autonomously. Commercial acumen.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref LG60208T, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX

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LAW OFFICES

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON

Corporate Finance & Banking — 6 + Years p.q.e.

We are a US-based international law firm with offices in Kansas City, Houston, London, Milan and Zürich, having over 250 lawyers worldwide. Our firm's London office is organised as a multinational partnership, staffed by both UK and US qualified partners.

In response to client demands, we are seeking to appoint a UK qualified solicitor who will have excellent partnership prospects and an important role in the further development and management of the firm's London based Corporate Finance and Banking practice.

We are seeking candidates with the following attributes:

- 6 or more years post qualification experience gained at a major City firm (required for consideration).
- Extremely strong client relationship and practice management skills.
- Extensive experience in structuring, negotiating and executing complex cross-border transactions, with particular emphasis on large syndicated financings, project finance and debt and equity offerings. Some M&A and joint venture experience would also be highly valuable.
- Contacts in the UK and European financial and business communities and the ambition to take a significant role in the expansion of the firm's practice.
- European language skills would be helpful, but are not a prerequisite.

The position offers a competitive salary and interesting work in a friendly team-orientated environment. There will be the opportunity for travel.

Written applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent by 19 April 1996 to S. Thornton, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Manning House, 22 Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1JA.

COMPETITION LAWYERS

City firm seeks partner and 3-5 year qualified assistant

The Competition and Regulation Group at our City firm client has handled some of the highest profile legal work in this sector in recent years including several MMC references, regulatory and related EC law aspects of major acquisitions, disposals and flotations and proceedings before the European Courts.

Under the leadership of two of the City's most well known names, the Group, through its presence in London and Brussels, is set to benefit significantly from the firm's decision to expand strategically in the media and communications and corporate finance and banking sectors.

A further partner and an assistant at the 3-5 year level are now sought to play key roles in the Group. The successful candidates must be able to demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for this type of work, a high level of technical skill and the personal attributes, energy and self-motivation to merit a fast track to, or (in the case of the more senior appointment) immediate, partnership.

To reflect the firm's long term commitment to this key area, the remuneration packages for both positions will be highly attractive.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact **Jonathan Brenner** *or* **Yasmin Phillips** *on* **0171-377 0510** *(0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at* **Zarak Macrae Brenner**, *Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail* **jonathan@zmb.co.uk**

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COMMERCIAL UNION
Marine & Aviation

IN-HOUSE LEGAL

Commercial Union is the UK's largest composite insurer and one of the world's largest underwriters of marine insurance business. Its Group Marine operation, based in the City, covers a multi-line international spread of business, with a broad portfolio of Marine Hull, Cargo, Energy and Liability risks, the bulk of which are written in the London Market.

A new role has been created, reporting to Group Marine management, to provide a comprehensive range of in-house legal advisory services.

The main responsibilities include:

- setting up and advising on the use of a panel of external specialist providers of legal and technical claims adjusting and surveying services worldwide;
- providing primary in-house legal assessment, and advising on the progress of all cases involving actual or potential litigation;
- providing legal advisory services generally, on all aspects relating to underwriting, claims and reinsurance matters.

This is a challenging opportunity to set up the role, and will suit a creative and commercially minded lawyer. A background of litigation from either private practice or a similar in-house role is required, together with at least 5 years' experience of complex international marine insurance business, preferably in the London Market. Experience of US energy/liability business is highly desirable.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our consultants, **Lisa Hicks** and **Jonathan Brenner**, on **0171-377 0510** (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Zarak Macrae Brenner**, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail **lisa@zmb.co.uk** This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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Corporate Partner

Lester Aldridge is one of the largest and most innovative commercial firms on the South Coast. Based in Bournemouth, the firm has a corporate-style management structure and is divided into a number of specialist units offering expert and commercial solutions to the problems of its national/international business clients.

Lester Aldridge

The commercial department now has an outstanding opportunity for a senior corporate lawyer between 10 and 15 years qualified with the personality and experience to play a key role in the further development of its corporate work and the ability to make an immediate impression on the regional market place.

The ideal candidate will have

- a track record in business acquisitions & disposals, corporate finance (including MBO's and MBI's) and experience of acting for quoted companies
- experience gained at a first rate regional practice or a City firm
- an established reputation with introducers of transactional work
- a proven ability to attract quality work

In return, the successful candidate will be assured of excellent prospects, remuneration and quality of life.

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

For further information or an initial discussion in strict confidence, call Liz Neser on 0171 430 1711 (Fax 0171 831 4186) or write to her at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. This assignment is being dealt with on an exclusive basis by Graham Gill & Young. Only applications made through Graham Gill & Young will be considered for this position.

LONDON POSITIONS

TELECOMS PARTNER — £125-210,000

Medium sized London firm with well managed overheads and extremely young partner profile seeks to expand its already strongly rated telecoms capability through the recruitment of another specialist in the field. Clients include major telecoms providers, UK and foreign utility companies and technology companies in the telecoms sector. Ideal candidate is a senior assistant or junior partner specialising in this work. (Ref.5760)

SENIOR BANKING — TO £100,000

Leading US investment house seeks 4 years' plus qualified banking lawyer to join team which advises on the whole range of the bank's activities. The bias of work will be advising on capital markets products, with a heavy emphasis on structuring and development of new products and trading strategies. Supportive team which encourages pro-activity. Experience will ideally include a background in derivatives. Applicants may come from other banks or private practice. (Ref.6562)

CAPITAL MARKETS — TO £70,000

International investment bank seeks capital markets lawyers to join in-house team undertaking mix of capital markets and structured finance. Candidates will be given immediate responsibility for specific core areas. Work is transaction driven in a highly charged environment. There will be minimal ISDA documentation. A robust, outgoing personality will be a necessity. Languages an advantage. Financial rewards outstanding. (Ref.5861)

IT LONDON / THAMES VALLEY — £PREMIUM

Several opportunities exist at this leading practice with excellent quality IT work in its London and Thames Valley offices. Clients include high profile software and mobile communications companies and on-line service providers. Dynamic assistants at the 1-3 year level are sought. Will, ideally, have some relevant experience in the IT sector although energetic and talented commercial lawyers with a genuine interest in this area will also be considered. (Ref.6212)

MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT — £40,000

Leading entertainment practice seeks media lawyer with a minimum of 3 years' pqe to join its highly regarded practice. A genuine interest in the industry, combined with enthusiasm and technical skills, are essential as is the ability to interact well with colleagues and clients alike. The practice has the backup commensurate with its size and salary and benefits are on a par with many larger competitors. (Ref.6634)

INSOLVENCY PARTNER — £100-260,000

Major international City firm seeks to enhance insolvency expertise before the next recession. As a result, an opening exists for a highly rated non-contentious City insolvency practitioner to join one of the few truly international firms in London which is regularly involved in "big ticket" corporate rescues and re-financings as well as major corporate collapses. Ideal candidate will be a partner, aged 35-45, with excellent connections with intermediaries. (Ref.6696)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION — £AGGRESSIVE

Litigation assistant, 2-4 years qualified, sought by one of the largest international practices with a growing UK presence. Caseload will include insurance, international litigation and arbitration matters. Candidates require strong academic background and experience with leading City firm. A knowledge of European languages would be ideal. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. (Ref.6730)

CORPORATE TAX — 1-4 YEARS' PQE

Medium-sized London firm with excellent reputation in specific sectors seeks corporate tax assistant for small team. Will support general mergers and acquisitions and other corporate work and provide tax input on employment, IP and telecommunications. Limited amount of personal and private client tax. Would suit a lawyer becoming overspecialised at a larger firm seeking a broader role with immediate and varied client contact. (Ref.6602)

IN-HOUSE LITIGATION — £40-50,000

International commodities and trading company seeks an in-house lawyer with experience of litigation, arbitration, shipping, international trade and commodities work. Will play a commercial role in advising senior management on international affairs and disputes. The environment is dynamic, with young managers and a forward thinking strategy for expansion. Opportunities to travel and also to grow the legal function. (Ref.6766)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY — £CITY

An in-house lawyer is sought by this international management consultancy to join existing legal team providing support to the consultancy practice. It is a leader in technology and organisational change services. With 4 years' plus experience of information technology and European language skills, the lawyer will advise on software development, systems integration and outsourcing and other commercial issues. (Ref.6649)

For further information regarding in-house vacancies please contact **Lisa Hicks** on **0171-377 0510** (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact **Yasmin Phillips, Miranda Smyth** or **Jonathan Brenner** on **0171-377 0510** (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail yasmin@zmb.co.uk

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POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Davies keeps feet on the ground after tight finish

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

LAURA DAVIES was a little subdued after the 72nd hole of the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley on Sunday. The world No 1, who had won the title for the third year in a row, wanted to leap in the air — blistered feet permitting — but she was sensitive to the feelings of Kristal Parker-Gregory, a gallant opponent who had just missed a three-foot putt on the last green, to lose by a shot.

"I had a feeling Kristal might miss the putt and I knew it would be horrible," Davies said. "I've been in that position and I know how disappointed I've been. It's difficult to get really happy when someone misses. You don't want to jump up and down and make a big fuss."

Even so, there was plenty to make a fuss about. It was the



Davies: hat-trick

41st victory of Davies's career, and she became the first person since Sandra Haynie in 1975 to win the same event in three successive seasons. She won a cheque for $105,000 (£67,500), to move into third place on the money-list with $163,958 behind Liselotte Neumann and Karrie Webb.

Mickey Walker, Europe's Solheim Cup captain, was here and happy to see three of the certainties for the match against the United States at St Pierre in September finish in the top eight — Liselotte Neumann and Annika Sorenstam tied for sixth place with Dottie Pepper.

Davies had her blisters treated before going out — she said her shoes were the problem, not the game of basketball she played on Friday — and there was nothing limp about her play. She hit the ball so well that even indifferent putting failed to frustrate her.

Parker-Gregory, whose husband, Jim, had flown down from Ohio to support her, has yet to win in nine years as a professional, but she proved a doughty competitor. "I'm a fighter," she said and she underlined that. Perhaps because of nerves, she struck the ball poorly, hitting nearly as many spectators as she did greens in regulation. There were only seven of the latter and she reckoned she single-putted seven times.

Three shots ahead of Davies after three rounds, Parker-Gregory found herself tied for the lead after eight holes — the American dropped a shot at the 6th, and Davies had birdies at the 3rd and 8th. No one else challenged and the two remained locked together, with Parker-Gregory chipping in from 30 feet to match Davies's birdie four at the 13th.

They both bogeyed the 15th, Davies missing from three feet and came to the 18th tied at eight under par. Parker-Gregory hit her best shot of the day, a six-iron from 165 yards, just over the green and Davies, from a bad lie in the rough, 111 yards from the pin, blasted a sand-iron just over. In fact, she cut her ball badly, but did not notice and proceeded to chip dead for her par four, a round of 71, two under par, and a total of 284, eight under.

Given the quality of the 31-year-old's scrambling up until then, a play-off seemed certain but she ran her first putt, from 25 feet, three feet past, and missed the one back. The consolation was that her prize of $65,165, by far the largest of her career, catapulted her from 123rd on the money-list to seventh and a place in the Nabisco Dinah Shore, the first major championship of the season, this week.

Davies offered commiserations and congratulations, and doubtless there were less subdued celebrations with friends and family on the drive across the desert to Palm Springs.



Jennifer Capriati stretches for a volley during her victory over Amanda Coetzer, the world No 15, in the Lipton championships in Key Biscayne, Florida. The unseeded American continued her comeback by overcoming the tenth seed, from South Africa, 6-4, 0-6, 6-1. "It feels great to beat someone ranked liked her," Capriati, who meets Gabriela Sabatini, the fourth seed, in the fourth round, said. "I knew she was pretty quick and I had to be ready to go for every ball. I knew I had to be ready to stay out there." Steffi Graf, the top seed, from Germany, sailed past Gigi Fernandez, of the United States, 6-3, 6-2 in 66 minutes, hitting 35 outright winners and three unforced errors. "I felt great," Graf said. "I didn't know that my statistics were that good. I think I played a pretty solid match." She now meets Mary Joe Fernandez, the ninth seed. Chanda Rubin, the sixth seed, won her all-American contest with Meredith McGrath 6-2, 6-3. In the men's competition, Pete Sampras, seeded second, had his service broken in the opening game and faced further stiff opposition from Jakob Hlasek, of Switzerland, before prevailing 7-5, 7-6 to take his place in the fourth round. "Today wasn't pretty tennis, but I fought pretty well and hung in there," Sampras, who meets Todd Martin, the sixteenth seed, in the next round, said. Michael Chang, the fourth seed, from the United States, extended his winning sequence to seven matches by beating Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

Britain seek extra coaching places

BY CRAIG LORD

GREAT Britain Swimming Federation officials are to hold further talks with the British Olympic Association (BOA) in an attempt to secure more places for coaches in the team for Atlanta.

The trainers of Neil Willey, Paul Palmer and Karen Pickering, three of only a handful of medal hopes among a squad of 28, have not been selected in the official party in which only five places were allocated for coaches.

The swimmers are drawn from 22 clubs, an unusually high number, with Janine Belton, from Bradford, at 16 the youngest member of the team. She has been added for the 4 x 200 metres relay so that Sarah Hardcastle does not have to swim the relay heats on a day when, hopefully, she will be trying for a medal in the 800 metres freestyle.

Dave Champion, who coaches Pickering, Ian Turner (Palmer) and Doug Campbell (Willey) can cite the recommendation made after the poor showing by British swimmers in Barcelona in 1992 that priority be given to the needs of those with the best chances of winning medals.

Pickering has won 14 medals in leading international events since 1993 while Palmer and Willey join Graeme Smith as the only three British swimmers who would have finished in the top two at the United States trials. Bill Furniss, the head coach, said that every team member would be "expected" to attend the training camp in Florida in May. Pickering says she will not go if Champion is not allowed to accompany her.

The staffing problem was exacerbated by the pre-selection of coaches. Furniss, who has no swimmers in the team, said that pre-selection was necessary for planning purposes. An angry Pickering pointed to ten years of planning by herself and Champion. "In what will be the last crucial month, and at Atlanta, he won't be there," she said.

The average age of the team is 22 with Nick Gillingham, at 29, the oldest man. As in 1992, when he finished third in the 200 metres breaststroke to win Britain's only medal in the pool, he has the best prospects of an Olympic title.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM

MEN: A Clayton (City of Leeds), M Fibbens (Hatfield), M Foster (City of Cardiff), N Gillingham (City of Birmingham), M Harris (Tower Hamlets), J Hickman (Stockport Metro), R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears), P Palmer (City of Lincoln), A Rapley (City of Sheffield), A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham), J Salter (City of Birmingham), N Shackell (Millfield), G Smith (Stockport Metro), M Stevens (Satellite, Macclesfield), N Willey (Barnet Copthall).

WOMEN: J Belton (City of Bradford), J Deakins (City of Coventry), C Foot (City of York), V Horner (Derwentside), C Huddart (City of Leeds), J King (Borough of Waltham Forest), S Hardcastle (Bracknell), M Hardman (City of Birmingham), K Pickering (Ipswich), S Ralph (City of Newcastle), A Sheppard (Milngavie & Bearsden), H Slatter (Warrington Warriors), C Willmott (Barnet Copthall).

Manager: B Lancaster. Head coach: B Furniss (Nottingham) Coaches: D Calleja (Stockport), T Denison (Leeds), D Haller (Cardiff), T Jones (Birmingham). Doctor: D Hunt. Physiotherapist: J Shubrook.

Steelers hit seven to seal final place at Wembley

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE only issue left to be settled in the final round of the British ice hockey championship play-offs on Sunday was who would top group A. In the event, Sheffield Steelers made it easily, beating Basingstoke Bison 7-3, with Tim Cranson and Ken Priestlay each scoring twice.

Nottingham Panthers, thanks to a last-minute goal from Simon Hunt, salvaged a point against Fife Flyers, but had already qualified for the Wembley weekend with their 3-0 success over the Steelers on Saturday. In group B, Humberside Hawks also clinched a trip to Wembley on Saturday with their win over Durham Wasps, so their loss to Cardiff Devils on Sunday was irrelevant.

In the semi-finals next Saturday, the Steelers will play the Hawks and the Panthers will play the Wasps, with the final on Sunday afternoon.

Milton Keynes Kings and Manchester Storm were the group winners in the promotion-relegation play-offs, but the announcement at the weekend that the Super League will definitely start next season, and the naming of the seven teams which will make up the new competition, made these games meaningless.

Cardiff Devils, Bracknell Bees, Basingstoke Bison, Manchester Storm, Sheffield Steelers, Durham Wasps and Guildford Flames are the chosen few, although only two of those teams have an arena which fulfils the criterion laid down by the Super League of a minimum capacity of 5,000.

The Centrum, in Ayr, if completed, could be another arena of the requisite size. Ayr, together with Nottingham, Milton Keynes and Fife are being considered as four more teams for inclusion in the Super League.

There is also a large question mark hanging over the Wasps, who have made Crowtree Leisure Centre their home this season, but who have yet to announce where they will be playing their home games next season. Newcastle Arena is a possibility, but it would mean ejecting the Warriors, a move which would seem rather unfair to them, since they were prepared to gamble on the move from Whitley Bay.

IN BRIEF

Club man Gallagher named for Barbarians

JOHN GALLAGHER, the former New Zealand rugby union full back who moved to rugby league but who is now playing for Blackheath, will make his first appearance for the Barbarians in their annual meeting with Cardiff on April 6. The XV includes three Italy internationals and two from Argentina as the Barbarians escape the restrictions of English and Welsh clubs engaged in league fixtures.

BARBARIANS: J Gallagher (Blackheath and New Zealand); D Stark (Boroughmuir and Scotland), S Cottrell (Cambridge University), S Salvat (Alumni and Argentina), P Vaccari (Calvisano and Italy), D Charvet (Racing and France), A Pichot (San Isidro and Argentina); A Watt (Glasgow HK and Scotland), K McKenzie (Stirling County and Scotland), P Wright (Boroughmuir and Scotland), X Blond (Racing and France), M Giacheri (Treviso and Italy), S Munro (Glasgow HK and Scotland), I Morrison (London Scottish and Scotland), J Gardner (Treviso and Italy).

Pearn in squad

HOCKEY: Mark Pearn, 19, of Reading, has been named in the Great Britain squad for the pre-Olympic tournament from April 11 to 17 in Atlanta. Jason Laslett, whose leg injury has kept him out of action since the team returned from the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona at the end of January, is captain.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: S Mason (Reading), D Lukes (East Grinstead), J Wyatt (Reading), J Halls (Old Loughtonians), Soma Singh (Southgate), S Hazlitt (Hounslow and Army), J Leslett (Teddington), K Talcher (Cannock), R Thompson (Hounslow), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians), C Mayer (Cannock), G Fordham (Hounslow and Army), R Garcia (RCP Barcelona), J Shaw (Southgate), C Giles (Havant), M Pearn (Reading).

Injury scare

TABLE TENNIS: Chen Xinhua, 36, the England No 1, may require surgery on a knee injury that has worsened after a sequence of matches on stone floors in the Croatian League. Should that be the case, Chen would probably miss the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July.

Australia dates

RUGBY UNION: Australia will play four matches on the Scottish leg of their tour to Scotland and Ireland this autumn, against Scottish Districts Select, Combined Scottish Districts, Scotland A and Scotland, at Murrayfield on November 9.

☐ The play-off between Glasgow and North and Midlands to decide Scotland's remaining district in the European Cup next season is at Meggetland on April 4.

FOR THE RECORD

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BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 91 Newcastle 77; Sheffield 93 Manchester 71; Hemel 81 Leicester 86; London Towers 101 Birmingham 91.

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championships: Singles: Group A: J Riveros (Arg) bt T Mathai (Thai) 25-9, O Fowler (Ken) bt P Matsalevu (Fiji) 25-15; N Kennedy (HK) bt F T Amituanai (W Samoa) 25-14; Riveros bt Amituana 25-6; A Allcock (Eng) bt Fowler 25-17; Kennedy bt Mathai 25-13. Group B: S Allen (Ire) bt P Knight (Br) 25-10; R Brassey (NZ) bt J Quempel (Guar) 25-14; B Wilson (Norfolk Island) bt A Thomas (Swazi) 25-13; R Corse (Scot) bt J L van Deventer (Zam) 25-10; Corse bt Knight 25-9; Quempel bt Wilson 25-10; Allen bt Van Deventer 25-15; Brassey bt Thomas 25-8. Group C: A Hicks (Botswana) bt Hon Yoong Chai (Sing) 25-15, N Burkett (SA) bt M Gilliland (Can) 25-9; J Rabkin (Isr) bt D Calfz (Nam) 25-22, Z Baba (Malaysia) bt J P Pomaleu (PNG) 25-13, Hicks bt Gilliland 25-24, Rabkin bt Baba 25-9; Pomaleu bt Calfz 25-22; Burkett bt Hon 25-10 Group D: M McCormick (Zim) bt M P Teloo (Cook Islands) 25-11; D Le Marquand (Jer) bt T Dion (US) 25-7; J Price (Wales) bt P Shaw (Mal) 25-16; K Kerkow (Aus) bt McCormick 25-19; Price bt Le Marquand 25-21; Shaw bt Dion 25-14

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Sydney: South Australia 383 (G Blewett 106, D Lehmann 82, P Nobes 70) and 207-6 (S Johnson 90 not out); New South Wales 267 (M Bevan 87, M Waugh 57) Melbourne: Queensland 142 and 338 (M Love 88, T Dodemaide 5-70). Victoria 255 (D Jones 69, W Ayres 68; M Kasprowicz 5-74) and 30-0 Hobart: Tasmania 357-9 dec (M DiVenuto 93, D Boon 91, J Cox 54) and 165-8 (T Moody 5-33); Western Australia 357 (J Langer 120, D Marlyn 65).

FOOTBALL

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION DIVISIONAL TEAMS: FA Carling Premiership: D James (Liverpool); G Neville (Manchester United); A Adams (Arsenal); U Ehiogu (Aston Villa); A Wright (Aston Villa); D Ginola (Newcastle), R Lee (Newcastle); S Stone (Nottingham Forest); R Guiit (Chelsea), L Ferdinand (Newcastle); A Shearer (Blackburn). Endsleigh Insurance League: First division: A Kelly (Sheffield United); D Kubicki (Sunderland); D Richards (Wolverhampton); R Rufus (Charlton), D Gordon (Crystal Palace); L Bowyer (Charlton); A Rae (Millwall); M Gray (Sunderland); G Parker (Leicester); D Sturridge (Derby); S Claridge (Leicester)

Second division: D Ward (Notts County); C Wilder (Notts County); S Taylor (Swindon); I Culverhouse (Swindon); P Bodin (Swindon); N Lennon (Crewe/Leicester); M Mellon (Blackpool); M O'Connor (Walsall); K Connolly (Wrexham); M Stewart (Bristol Rovers); K Nogan (Burnley). Third division: J Stannard (Gillingham); D Jupp (Fulham); M Heathcote (Plymouth); R Wilcox (Preston); P Williams (Plymouth); S Davey (Preston); I Bryson (Preston); R Martinez (Wigan); M Kinsella (Colchester); A Saville (Preston); C Dale (Cardiff)

OFFICIAL CORRECTION: Endsleigh Insurance League: Third division: Colchester v Torquay. Torquay goal has now been credited to Ellis Laight and not Paul Baker.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final draw: Hyde United v Northwich Victoria: Macclesfield Town v Chorley.

☐ *First legs to be played on April 13, second legs April 20*

Sunday's late results

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Cork 0 Athlone 2; UCD 3 Sligo 1.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Millwall Lionesses 5 Wolverhampton 0; Wembley 7 Villa Aztecs 2. Northern division: Garswood St Helens 0 Sheff Wed 0; Huddersfield 6 Notts County 0 Southern division: Wimbledon 2 Three Bridges 1.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Semi-finals: Liverpool 0 Arsenal 0; Croydon 5 Ipswich 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 3 Paris Saint-Germain 0.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Torino 1 Cagliari 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Compostela 0 Valencia 4; Salamanca 1 Barcelona 3; Albacete 0 Oviedo 1; Racing Santander 1 Rayo Vallecano 2; Atlético Madrid 1 Zaragoza 1, Sevilla 1 Valladolid 1; Español 0 Deportivo La Coruña 0; Celta 3 Athletic Bilbao 1; Real Sociedad 1 Real Madrid 1

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Felgueiras 2 Amadora 1; Farense 2 Boavista 0; Campomaiorense 2 Braga 0; União Leiria 1 Leca 3; Salgueiros 2 Gil Vicente 3; Maritimo Funchal 0 Chaves 2; Tirsense 1 Sporting Lisbon 1; Benfica 2 FC Porto 1

GOLF

PHOENIX, Arizona: LPGA Tournament: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 284: L Davies (GB) 71, 73, 69, 71. 285: K Parker-Gregory 67, 72, 69, 75. 286: K Robbins 73, 70, 72, 71. 288: K Webb (Aus) 70, 73, 77, 68; S Steinhauer 69, 73, 76, 70. 289: A Sorenstam (Swe) 74, 68, 76, 71; L Neumann (Swe) 71, 74, 71, 73; D Pepper 74, 67, 75, 73. 290: K Tschetter 74, 70, 75, 71; D Richard 76, 71, 76, 67; P Sheehan 71, 71, 74, 74; N Lopez 71, 72, 74, 73. 291: D Coe-Jones (Can) 69, 74, 75, 73; H Kobayashi (Japan) 72, 71, 73, 75. Other scores: 293: B Daniel 72, 74, 81, 66; T Johnson (GB) 72, 73, 73, 75. 294: J Stephenson (Aus) 74, 71, 78, 71; J Lidback (Peru) 74, 71, 76, 73; C Pierce (GB) 74, 73, 75, 72. 295: C Matthew (GB) 75, 73, 73, 71; B Iverson 75, 72, 77, 72; K Marshall (GB) 71, 73, 77, 75. Disqualified: K Davies (GB).

NEW ORLEANS: Freeport-McDermott Classic: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 275: S McCarron 68, 67, 69, 71. 280: T Watson 68, 66, 72, 74. 281: T Tolles 70, 69, 66, 76. 283: B McCallister 73, 64, 75, 71; P Stewart 74, 71, 67, 71; J Edwards 72, 69, 70, 72; S Lowery 71, 71, 68, 73; D Love 69, 68, 72, 75; L Clements 67, 65, 74, 76. Other scores: 287: F Nobilo (NZ) 67, 73, 71, 76. 289: C Parry (Aus) 74, 69, 71, 75. 292: E Els (SA) 72, 71, 72, 77; M Kuramoto (Japan) 70, 69, 75, 78.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 2 Anaheim 2 (OT), Colorado 5 Winnipeg 2; Edmonton 3 Ottawa 2; St Louis 2 Detroit 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 8 NY Rangers 2.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs: Group A: Fife 5 Nottingham 5, Sheffield 7 Basingstoke 3. Group B: Cardiff 8 Humberside 2, Newcastle 4 Durham 6. Promotion/relegation play-offs: Group A: Blackburn 9 Guildford 12; Milton Keynes 1 Bracknell 4. Group B: Manchester 7 Dundee 3; Swindon 5 Slough 5

MOTOR RALLYING

VAUXHALL RALLY OF WALES: Final positions: 1, A McRae and D Senior (GB, Ford Escort Cosworth) 2hr 33min 37sec; 2, A Mokkonen and V Silander (Fin, Ford Escort Cosworth) 2:38:33; 3, G Evans and H Davies (GB, Ford Escort RS2000) 2:38:50; 4, O Harkki and K Mustalahti (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) 2:40:47; 5, M Higgins and P Mills (GB, Nissan Sunny GTI) 2:42:50. Mobil 1 and Top Gear British Rally championship: 1, Evans and Davies 2:38:50; 2, Higgins and Mills 2:42:50; 3, M Kytolehto and A Kapanen (Fin, Ford Escort RS2000) 2:47:06.

SKIING

TIGNES: British Land National Ski Championships: Men: Super Giant slalom: 1, G Bell 1min 19.14sec; 2, A Freshwater 1:20.91, 3, A Baxter Woman: Super Giant slalom: 1, E Carrick-Anderson 1min 25.09sec; 2, S Robertson 1:25.52; 3, T Pine 1:28.84

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipson Championships (US unless stated): Third round: Men: Singles: P Sampras br J Hlasek (Switz) 7-5, 7-6; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-0, 6-3; R Krajicek (Holl) bt 10-S Bruguera (Sp) 7-5, 7-6; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt C Pollins (Fr) 6-2 6-2; P Korda (Cz) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; T Martin bt R Furlan (It) 6-3, 6-2; V Spadea bt S Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-2; M Chang bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 6-2. Women: S Graf (Ger) bt G Fernandez 6-3, 6-2; A Huber (Ger) bt S-T Wang (Taiwan) 6-0, 6-7 6-4; G Sabatini (Arg) bt K Kschwendt (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; K Date (Japan) bt M Wendel Wimmeyer 6-0, 6-0; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt J Novotna (Cz) 6-3 6-3; L Davenport bt K Boogert (Holl) 6-4, 7-5; M J Fernandez bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt B Paulus (Austria) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; N Tauziat (Fr) bt K Adams 6-0, 6-2; S Fanna (It) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-0, 7-5, I Spirlea (Rom) bt L Raymond 6-4, 6-4, A Grossman bt M Oremans (Holl) 6-4, 0-6, 6-2; J Wiesner (Austria) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-2 6-2; J Capriati bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-4, 0-6, 6-1; C Rubin bt M McGrath 6-2, 6-3; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-4, 6-2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 2 Anaheim 2 (OT), Colorado 5 Winnipeg 2; Edmonton 3 Ottawa 2; St Louis 2 Detroit 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 8 NY Rangers 2.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship
Quarter-final, second leg
Scotland (1) v Hungary (2) (at Easter Road, Edinburgh) .....

Under-21 international
Ireland v Russia (at United Park, Drogheda) .....

B international
Northern Ireland v Norway Olympic XI (at Coleraine) .....

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield .....
Carlisle v Rotherham (7.45) .....
Hull v Notts County .....
Peterborough v Blackpool (7.45) .....
Wycombe v Bradford (7.45) .....
York v Bournemouth .....

Third division
Chester v Cambridge Utd .....
Fulham v Leyton Orient (7.45) .....
Hereford v Lincoln .....
Preston v Bury .....
Scunthorpe v Exeter .....

Vauxhall Conference
Dover v Welling (7.45) .....
Halifax v Southport (7.45) .....
Macclesfield v Northwich (7.45) .....
Telford v Woking (7.45) .....

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Cornaes Bay; Inter Cardiff v Aberystwyth; Newtown v Cwmbran. League of Wales Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ebbw Vale v Barry

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v VS Rugby; Crawley v Grasley; Dorchester v Halesowen (7.45); Gravesend and Northfleet v Gloucester; Stafford v Hastings (7.45); Merthyr v Cheltenham. Midland division: Bedworth v Dudley Town; Buckingham Town v Bilston; Evesham v King's Lynn, Leicester United v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Nuneaton. Southern division: Cinderford v Tonbridge Angels, Newport (IoW) v Erith and Belvedere, Weymouth v Fisher 93; Witney v Ashford.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Walton and Hersham (7.45); Grays v Yeovil; Hayes v Purfleet (7.45); Hendon v Enfield; Kingstonian v Harrow. First division: Barking v Staines (7.45), Barton Rovers v Marlow (7.45); Basingstoke v Oxford City; Wembley v Tooting and Mitcham (7.45); Wokingham v Leyton Pennant (7.45) Second division: Bedford T v Witham (7.45); Dorking v Chesham (7.45); Edgware v Chalfont St Peter (7.45). Carlton Cup: Boreham Wood v Bishop's Stortford; Sutton United v Carshalton Ath. Carlton Trophy: Semi-finals: Banstead v Tilbury (7.45); Canvey Island v Hungerford (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Accrington Stanley. First division: Bradford Park Ave v Lincoln United; Curzon Ashton v Workington; Fleetwood v Gretna; Radcliffe v Warrington. Challenge Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Gainsborough v Hyde

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Wimbledon (at Harrow Borough FC, 7.0) Second division: Plymouth v Swansea (2.0); Torquay v Newport AFC (7.0)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Bolton (7.0). Second division: Manchester City v Middlesbrough (at Witton Albion FC, 7.0)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Down v Calne; Westbury v Chippenham.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Brackley; Carterton v Kintbury

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation v Eppleton CW.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Flixton v Nantwich; Holker Old Boys v Trafford; Kidsgrove v Mossley. Newcastle Town v Chadderton.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft v Wroxham; Wisbech v Hadleigh U

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v S and L Corby; Desborough v Holbeach; Potton v Stamford

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Boldmere; Rocester v Halesowen H; Rushall v Kynpersley; Stratford v Pershore; Willenhall v Shifnal

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: League Cup: Stocksbridge PS v Ossett Albion.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Manchester City v Wimbledon

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Centenary Shield under-18 international: Switzerland v England (Geneva, 6.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated

WRU Midweek League
Final
Ystradgynlais v Dunvant (at Ystradgynlais, 7.0) .....

CLUB MATCHES: Cross Keys v Neath, Glamorgan Wanderers v Treorchy; South Wales Police v Swansea; Tiverton v Exeter (7.15); Tredegar v Pontypool

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v London (8.0)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes.

HOCKEY: Women's International: Great Britain v France (Bisham Abbey, 3.0)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Reading v Swindon (7.30); Wolverhampton v Cradley Heath and Stoke (7.30)

Flying the flag for England
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GREEN FLAG National Breakdown

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, when the declarer is trying to set up a discard, the defence have to be quite careful of the order in which they win their tricks. Here is an example from the TGR £100 game.

Dealer West — Love all — Rubber bridge

	♠1085 ♥QJ ♦J842 ♣KQJ4	
♠KJ74 ♥A873 ♦1073 ♣85	N W E S	♠962 ♥K942 ♦AK965 ♣6
	♠AQ3 ♥1065 ♦Q ♣A109732	

W	N	E	S
Pass 2D	Pass 3C	1D All Pass	2C

Contract: Three Clubs by South — Lead: Five of clubs

West's Two Diamond bid is the best of a bad job at rubber bridge; duplicate players would make a negative double of South's Two Club overcall.

Declarer won the club in dummy and continued with the queen of hearts. I was East and, playing in unusually alert form, I put in the king and played the nine of spades. Declarer played low and West won with the jack. Now, if West switches to a diamond, I can win and play through another spade, enabling the defence to set up a second spade trick before the ace of hearts is knocked out.

Alas, West continued pitifully with another trump, and now the declarer was able to set up the ten of hearts for a spade discard.

Notice that East must win the first heart to give the defence any chance. If he plays low, West cannot attack spades.

☐ The Great Britain teams at the European mixed events returned home without a medal. The pairs was won by Maria Erhart and Fritz Kubak, of Austria, while, in the teams, Michel and Veronique Bessis, Catherine Saul and Paul Chemla, of France, were victorious.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Britons lead

Nigel Short and Michael Adams, Great Britain's top grandmasters, share the lead in important tournaments in progress at present. Adams has 2½ points out of three along with Ivan Sokolov, of Holland, in the New York international festival ahead of grandmasters Korchnoi, Salov and Patrick Wolff, the United States champion. Meanwhile, in Amsterdam, Nigel Short shares the lead with Garry Kasparov and Veselin Topalov on two out of three after Short toppled the Topalov in this game.

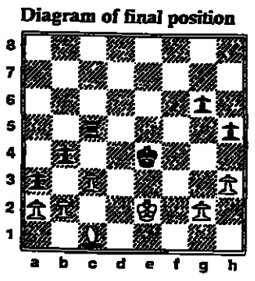
White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Nigel Short
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	Bb3	Nbd7
8	f4	Nc5
9	0-0	Nfxe4
10	Nxe4	Nxe4
11	f5	e5
12	Qh5	d5
13	Re1	Bc5
14	Rxe4	Bxd4+
15	Be3	0-0
16	Rxd4	exd4
17	Bxd4	f6
18	Bc5	Re8
19	Rd1	Kh8
20	Rxd5	Bd7
21	h3	Re5
22	Rxe5	fxe5
23	Bf7	Be8
24	Bg6	h6
25	Bxe8	Qxe8
26	Qxe8+	Rxe8
27	Bd8	Rd8
28	Bxe5	Rd5
29	Bc3	Rd5
30	Bd4	b5
31	c3	h5
32	Bf2	Kg8
33	Kf1	Kf7
34	Ke2	Ke6
35	Bd4	g6
36	Bb6	Kd5
37	Bc7	Ke4
38	Bd8	Rd5
39	Bh4	Rd3
40	Bf2	a5
41	Be1	a4
42	Bd2	Rd7
43	Bh6	Rd5
44	Bc1	Rc5
45	Be3	a3
46	Bc1	b4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PA'ANGA
a. A big knife
b. A grass hut
c. Money

RACLETTE
a. Hot potato and cheese
b. A Pelota basket
c. Fine Swiss lace

RODHAM
a. A breed of beagle
b. A bank
c. A briarproof tweed

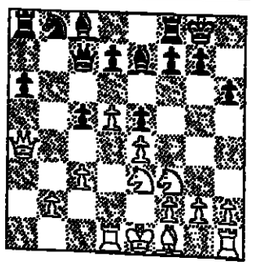
PLOTZ
a. Parsnip soup
b. To slump
c. A Bronx allotment

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Steiner, Kemeri, 1937. We are only just out of the opening, but, nevertheless, Alekhine now spotted a clever tactic that immediately won the game. What did he play?



Solution on page 46

O'Dwyer's career moves into overdrive

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

CONOR O'DWYER is much in demand. The Gold Cup-winning jockey cheerfully admits his feet haven't touched the ground since Imperial Call stormed past the finishing post at Cheltenham. They have, however, touched his car.

Last Friday, O'Dwyer drove the 150 miles from his Curragh home to Cork to play golf and chat informally with Imperial Call's owners. Job done and back behind the wheel to drive the 300 miles to Belfast to appear on an Ulster television chat show. Another 150 miles behind the wheel and he arrived home at 2.30am.

Eight hours and 70 miles later, he was in Clonmel town hall for a reception — then on to Clonmel racecourse, where he rode Imperial Call in a parade and, almost as an afterthought, rode a winner.

"It has been brilliant but non-stop. Every night there's been something to attend," said the 29-year-old, who understands only too well that people like to be associated with winners.

For years big-race success was comparatively rare for O'Dwyer, but not any more. Success can breed even more success and the Grand National could be next on O'Dwyer's list.

He was chosen for the ride on Son Of War after the grey's regular rider, Francis Woods, had been claimed for the other main Irish challenger, Wylde Hide.

The choice was not surprising as, after winning at Cheltenham, he announced that the Grand National was his ultimate ambition.

O'Dwyer guided Laura's Beau into third place behind Party Politics in the Aintree spectacular four years ago and is fuelling an ambition that first developed when he was growing up in Wexford.

"I have always loved it. I know the Gold Cup is more prestigious but as a kid the spectacle of it all, with the different fences, really got to me. It is probably not quite the race it was, but it's still a fair challenge and the lottery element remains," he said.

Son Of War could be the ideal horse to deal with the demands of Aintree and become the first Irish-trained National winner since L'Escargot in 1975.

The winner of the Irish National two years ago, Son Of War has not won since December of that year, but his last two races have shown he is on the way back. After finishing fourth to Imperial Call in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown, he just failed to concede 40lb to Carrigeen Kerria in a Fairyhouse handicap chase late last month.

"He has come along nicely in the meantime and I'm very happy with his condition," Peter McCreery, Son Of War's trainer, said.

O'Dwyer agrees. "Fairyhouse was a hell of a run and showed he is back. He is a safe jumper and he'll gallop all day. The ground isn't a huge factor as he will go on anything."

Being the National, O'Dwyer admits he is not as confident of Son Of War as he was about Imperial Call before the Gold Cup, but Saturday's race does not have the same class of opposition. "You look at Wylde Hide, Lo Stregone, Rough Quest and my fellow, and there's not a lot else," O'Dwyer said.

After the success of the Irish horses at Cheltenham, the iron may still be hot enough for the 21-year gap since L'Escargot to be bridged. If Son Of War's white head powers past the post first it will certainly cap a remarkable month for his jockey.

There may be a price to pay however. O'Dwyer joked: "If he wins, the nights out will go on for so long I may have to retire." Nor when there is such demand for him, he won't.



O'Dwyer hopes to complete a big-race double after his Cheltenham Gold Cup win

Mark Of Esteem singled out as classic leader

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN DUBAI

MOVING swiftly through the barn housing his three-year-olds yesterday, Sheikh Mohammed left no doubt which horse will carry Godolphin's banner in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 4. He dwelt briefly on its occupants before moving to a paddock at the rear. There, on show in perfect isolation, was Mark Of Esteem.

A bay son of Darshaan, Mark Of Esteem has made obvious physical improvement since his arrival in Dubai in October, having won at Goodwood in July after chasing home Alhaarth at Newmarket. That he had been highlighted above his stable companions told its own story, but the sheikh was more than happy to confirm the impression with words.

"We are very happy with this horse," he said. "He is good but we have to watch his knees. We will have to stop if he shows slight lameness but he is going well now. He could be our one although I hope another horse comes through." The briefing prompted Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, to cut Mark Of Esteem to 7-1, from 9-1, for the one-mile classic.

Looking relaxed in advance of the Dubai World Cup tomorrow, Sheikh Mohammed revealed Mark Of Esteem suffered from an arthritic spur but would not undergo surgery. "That happened with Arazi but it did not help," he said. "If this horse carries on as he is, we will run him at Newmarket. But first he must do some hard work."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: POSTAGE STAMP
(3.50 Sandown Park)

NB: Norman Conqueror
(3.15 Sandown Park)

The Times Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard) top-rated Sea Spouse (6-1) at Folkestone yesterday, while Thunderer found Lloc (10-1).

Each of the 83 horses at Godolphin are to undergo strenuous gallops next month. The best 43 are due to be transported to Moulton Paddocks, in Newmarket, on April 28. The three-year-olds will be worked in company with older group winners at strict weight-for-age terms. A firm indication of their merit will emerge when the times they record are compared with those posted by the likes of Moonshell and Vettori under identical conditions 12 months ago.

It also emerged that Godolphin has expanded the number of juveniles in its care. Among the herd of 25 are horses owned by sheikhs Maktoum and Hamdan. They will all be shipped to Newmarket, although they are four weeks behind their elders in condition.

"We made a mistake with the two-year-olds last year," Sheikh Mohammed admitted. "We jumped on them as soon as they arrived from Europe so we have given them more time to settle this year." Godolphin had a solitary runner in Britain from a string of eight juveniles 12 months ago.

For all the promise of his string, the sheikh recognised that Godolphin will find it hard to emulate the achievements of last season. "Last year was wonderful but it cannot happen every year," he said. "We have some good horses but there is not another Lammtarra. I will be happy to win any classic in Europe this time."

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

JOHN HUGHES MEMORIAL TROPHY
Aintree, March 28

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes
Valiant Warrior	13-2	6-1	6-1
Old Bridge	13-2	7-1	7-1
Toureen Prince	8-1	8-1	7-1
Back Bar	9-1	10-1	8-1
Tudor Fable	10-1	11-1	10-1
Rhee	10-1	12-1	10-1
Master Boston	10-1	10-1	10-1
Go Universal	12-1	14-1	10-1
Straight Talk	14-1	16-1	12-1
Sailor Jim	14-1	14-1	16-1
Dames	20-1	14-1	16-1
Romany King	14-1	20-1	20-1

While the Grand National is the focal point of the week, there is an early reminder of the spruce fences in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy, over one circuit of the National course at Aintree on Thursday.

The fences have been toned down in recent years, but they may still prove too much for Old Bridge. He was a game winner of the Mildmay of Flete at the Cheltenham Festival, but has had problems with his jumping in the past, and is easily passed over at 7-1. Valiant Warrior holds stronger claims, having been raised just 7lb for his comfortable defeat of Newlands General at Doncaster, but he, too, offers little value.

The progressive Go Universal was returning from a three-month absence when third to Valiant Warrior at Doncaster. A winner at Aintree earlier this season, albeit over the easier Mildmay fences, he would be overpriced at 14-1 if the ground was fast. However, the latest going forecast is good to soft, and his supporters would be advised to wait until the day of the race.

The "Aintree factor" may now have been deemed irrelevant by the official handicapper, but there is a strong case for believing that experience of the unique fences remains an advantage. In that respect, Romany King holds outstanding claims. Runner-up to the Grand National in 1992 and joint-4th last year, he now races at a 24lb lower mark in the handicap. On his only start this season, at Ludlow last month, Romany King finished sixth. On the face of it that was a disappointing effort, but he was given an easy time once his chance of winning had gone and can be expected to improve considerably for that run, his first for over 10 months. At 20-1, ROMANY KING represents a golden each-way opportunity.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Callisoe Bay
2.45 Falmouth Bay
3.15 Norman Conqueror
3.50 Yorkshire Gale
4.20 Medinas Swan Song
4.50 Cool Relation

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 FALMOUTH BAY.

Carl Evans: 4.50 Cool Relation.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .. .. B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down. S — slipped up R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last racing. F — first /B — blinkers. V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 SURREY RACING NOVICES CHASE
(£4,736 2m) (3 runners)

1 0-F1321 CALLISOE BAY 24 (D,F,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 7-11-6 ..... J Osborne
2 UP21-3F PENNINE PASS 1 (F) (P Moore) D Williams 7-11-6 ..... M Clarke 53
3 3-32131 PERHAPS 20 (BLS) (H Wilson) Miss H Knight 5-10-7 ..... J F Titley 73

SETTING: 1-2 Callisoe Bay, 2-1 Perhaps, 10-1 Pennine Pass
1995: LEOTARD 8-11-10 J Osborne (4-1) O Sherwood 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALLISOE BAY beat Netherby Said 15l in 5-runner novice chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). Previously 3l 2nd of 14 to Arctic Kingsman in a novice chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to soft). PENNINE PASS, fell at Fontwell yesterday, distant 3rd of 7 to Oscar An Dora in a novice chase at Hereford (2m, soft) penultimate start. PERHAPS beat Destiny 1¼l in a 11-runner novice chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft)
Selection: CALLISOE BAY

2.45 MOUSETRAP CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES CHASE
(£4,531. 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 111132 HARWELL LAD 39 (BF,F,G,S) (H Whitstead) R Alner 7-11-8 .. Mr R Nuttall 84
2 0P-1PF2 FALMOUTH BAY 39 (G,S) (J Morton) S Sherwood 7-11-4 ..... J Osborne
3 144224 INCHCAILLOCH 14 (G,S) (F Cates) J King 7-11-4 ..... R Dunwoody 87
4 R6F2 JOURNEYS FRIEND 22 (P Winfield) N Henderson 8-11-0 ..... M A Fitzgerald 75
5 30PBF4 MAREMMA GALE 19 (B) (R Scorgie) N Mitchell 8-11-0 ..... L Harvey 63

BETTING: 6-4 Falmouth Bay, 2-1 Inchcailloch, 5-2 Harwell Lad, 8-1 Journeys Friend, 33-1 Maremma Gale.
1995: OATIS REGRETS 7-11-8 J Osborne (5-5 fav) Miss H Knight 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

HARWELL LAD distant 2nd of 3 to Kings Cherry on comeback chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft) Previously 15½l 3rd of 9 to Hill Of Tullow in a novice chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft). FALMOUTH BAY 3l 2nd of 9 to Golden Spinner in a novice chase over course and distance (good to soft). JOURNEYS FRIEND (3lb worse off) led 3rd until fell 6th. INCHCAILLOCH 30½l 4th of 16 to Ventana Canyon in grade 1 Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft). JOURNEYS FRIEND 6l 2nd of 6 in Churchtown Pot in a novice chase at Windsor (2m, good to soft). MAREMMA GALE distant 4th of 12 to General Crack in a novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm)
Selection: INCHCAILLOCH

3.15 ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP CHASE
(Amateurs: £3,518: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 463190 MASSOOD 80 (V,D,F,6) (D Lloc) J Mullins 11-12-7 ..... D Lins 65
2 2/5/511 NORMAN CONQUEROR 18 (V,CD,F,6,S) (Queen Elizabeth) T Jones 11-12-7 O Elwood
3 2/P-PF41 HICKELTON LAD 6 (F,6) (J Berry) D Williams 12-12-0 ..... S J Robinson 67
4 60P-606 RICHVILLE 24 (F,6,S) (Major-Gen R Burges) K Bailey 10-12-0 ..... D Alers-Hankey –
5 3335-3P COOL AND EASY 27 (D,6,S) (Honourable Artillery Company) J Dobson 10-11-7 A Wood 84
6 FU62/P GAELIC CHERRY 331P (CD,F,G,S) (D Fletcher) D Fletcher 13-11-7 J Wingfield Digby –
7 P/OUS-UO GUNNER STREAM 18 (CD,F,6) (Mrs A Sims) A Sims 12-11-7 ..... C Farr –
8 /PP22 TRUE STEEL 17 (6,S) (J Trice-Rolph) J Trice-Rolph 10-11-3 ..... J Trice-Rolph 65
9 F66P TODDLING BAN 7 (3rd Regimental Royal Horse Artillery) R Hodges 9-10-12 C Ward Thomas –

BETTING: 4-5 Norman Conqueror, 9-2 Richville, 7-1 True Steel, 8-1 Cool And Easy, Hickelton Lad, 12-1 Magsood, 14-1 others
1995: COOL GROUND 13-11-7 D Alers-Hanley (15-8) D Elsworth 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MASSOOD, best effort this season, beat Turpin's Green 4l in a 4-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good to firm). NORMAN CONQUEROR, completed double, beat Irish Bay 21½l in 11-runner Horse And Hound Grand Military Gold Cup over course and distance (good) with TODDLING BAN (11lb better off) tailed off 5th and GUNNER STREAM (7lb better off) tailed off 7th. HICKELTON LAD beat Tullnus George 34l in 17-runner hunter chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good). RICHVILLE 27l 8th of 9 to Tudor Fable in a handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft). COOL AND EASY 35l 3rd of 9 to Holland House in a hunter chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy). GAELIC CHERRY 10l 2nd of 10 to Wild Illusion in open at Towcester (soft) penultimate start, Feb 1994. TRUE STEEL 114l 2nd of 5 to The Major General in a hunter chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with HICKELTON LAD (11lb worse off) 8¼l 4th.
Selection: NORMAN CONQUEROR

3.50 ALANBROOKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,418: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 5-3U411 ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 17 (CD,F,G,S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 9-11-10 R Dunwoody 96
2 11-F033 POSTAGE STAMP 13 (F,6) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 9-11-8 ..... L Wyer 95
3 56-1U40 YORKSHIRE GALE 38 (CD,6,S) (B Hyslop) J Gifford 10-11-5 ..... G Bradley 96
4 3211Z/0 BUCK WILLOW 17 (CD,F,6,S) (Mrs S Embanks) J Gifford 12-10-11 ..... P Hide 85
5 214-52P CUDDY DALE 17 (CD,F,6,S) (S Hubbard) G Hubbard 13-10-8 ..... M A Fitzgerald
6 121332 EQUITY PLAYER 11 (CD,BF,F,6,S) (Mrs S Partners) R Curtis 11-10-0 Mr J Culloty (5) 96

Long handicap: Equity Player 9-10

BETTING: 9-4 Arthur's Minstrel, 3-1 Postage Stamp, 7-2 Buck Willow, 5-1 Cuddy Dale, 7-1 Equity Player, 8-1 Yorkshire Gale.

1995: RUN UP THE FLAG 8-10-6 Mr C Bonner (7-4) J Gifford 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARTHUR'S MINSTREL, completed double, beat Bishops Hall 4l in 5-runner course and distance handicap chase (good to soft) with BUCK WILLOW (2lb better off) 13l 3rd. CUDDY DALE (2lb better off) tailed off when pulled up before 16th. Previously beat CUDDY DALE (4lb better off) 14l in 9-runner course and distance handicap chase (good to soft) with YORKSHIRE GALE (10lb better off) 52¼l 8th. *POSTAGE STAMP* 6¼l 3rd of 13 to Old Bridge in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). YORKSHIRE GALE beat Edenbourg 2¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good). EQUITY PLAYER 13½l 2nd of 8 to Big Ben Dun in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to firm).
Selection: ARTHUR'S MINSTREL (nap)

4.20 ROYAL STAR AND GARTER HOME HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,372: 2m) (5 runners)

1 122-3P1 SOCIETY GUEST 17 (D,F,G,S) (Robinson Webster Ltd) A Turnell 10-12-0 L Harvey 92
2 63-3230 MEDINAS SWAN SONG 12 (D,G,S) (C Perry) R Hodges 6-12-0 ..... A Tory 96
3 413314 PATS MINSTREL 112 (B,CD,F,6,S) (K Hunt) R Champion 11-11-9 R Dunwoody 91
4 221142 DEAR DO 25 (D,G,S) (C Edwards) N Henderson 9-10-10 ..... M A Fitzgerald 95
5 322451 DR ROCKET 10 (B,D,F,6,S) (The Rocketeers) R Dickin 11-10-0 ..... R Bellamy

Long handicap: Dr Rocket 9-13

BETTING: 7-4 Society Guest, 3-1 Medinas Swan Song, Dear Do, 5-1 Dr Rocket, 6-1 Pats Minstrel
1995: KING CREDO 10-11-4 J F Titley (7-4) S Woodman 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOCIETY GUEST beat Blazon Of Troy 2l in 8-runner amateur riders' handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, soft). MEDINAS SWAN SONG 5¼l 3rd of 9 to Tudor Fable in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft) penultimate start. PATS MINSTREL beat De Jordaan 20l in 3-runner handicap chase at Aintree (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. DEAR DO 2¼l 2nd of 7 to Master Oddy in a handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good to soft). DR ROCKET beat Meads Joy 14l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Hereford (2m, soft).
Selection: DR ROCKET

4.50 UBIQUE HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,646: 2m 4f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 2/6-B11 RYDE AGAIN 21 (D,F,G,S) (Miss J Hayward) Miss C Saunders, 13-12-6 T Marks (7) 90
2 4114-4F SYNDERBOROUGH LAD 26 (BF,F,G) (S Pike) S Pike 10-12-6 S Muldaire (7) 84
3 11/308P- AMARI KING 328 (CD,F,G,S) (M Wang-Thomas) J Ward-Thomas (7) 80
4 12/1111- COOL RELATION 350 (CD,F,G,S) (D Caro) D Caro 10-12-7 ..... A Phillips (7)
5 5233P1 HALHAM TARN 21 (S) (H Manners) H Manners 12-12-2 A Charles-Jones (7) 71
6 643345 TRUST THE GYPSY 21 (F,6,S) (Mrs B Whettam) J Dobson 14-12-2 P Henley (5) 56
7 5P43P/ CROSSOFSPANCIHILL 1109 (F,G) (H Evans) Mrs J Evans 10-11-12 M Bradley (7)
8 P3535-5 FATHER DOWLING 15 (G) (Mrs E Haycock) E Balding 9-11-12. A Balding (7) 88
9 F/38P-5P J J JIMMY 38P (F,G,S) (A Mayfam) A Mayfam 12-11-12 ..... G Hopper (7) 70
10 3/45/3 JOHN O'DEE 22P (CD,F,G,S) (D De Burgh Marsh) M Johnson 13-11-12 I Marsh (7)
11 34222-0 SOCIAL CLIMBER 28 (BF,G,S) (L Richards) S Gilmore 12-11-12 ..... L Lay (7) 68
12 3/5522P- WINDY WAYS 325 (F,G) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 11-11-12 C Vigors (5) 96
13 0- BEAU BO'S RETURN 318 (H Winton) Miss H Knight 5-10-9 ..... J Culloty (5)

BETTING: 7-4 Cool Relation, 7-2 Ryde Again, 5-1 Windy Ways, 6-1 Synderborough Lad, 10-1 Halham Tarn, 12-1 Aman King, 16-1 others.

1995: COOL RELATION 9-11-9 A Phillips (5-6 fav) D Caro 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

RYDE AGAIN completed double, beat Pasjade 8l in 3-runner hunter chase at Leicester (3m, good to soft) SYNDERBOROUGH LAD 9l 4th of 9 to Crosula in a handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 7f, good to firm). COOL RELATION completed four-timer, beat Highway Five distance in 5-runner hunter chase at Bangor (2m 110yd, good to firm). HALHAM TARN beat Rosman 15l in a 13-runner hunter chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to soft) with TRUST THE GYPSY (12lb better off) 36l 5th. FATHER DOWLING 30l 5th of 11 to Space Cappa in a hunter chase at Taunton (3m, good). WINDY WAYS 9¼l 2nd of 10 to Sunley Bay in amateur riders' handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start with SYNDERBOROUGH LAD (12lb worse off) 32¼l 5th, March 1995. Selection: COOL RELATION

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	32	92	34.8	C Ward Thomas	7	22	31.8
A Turnell	8	23	34.8	J Trice-Rolph	3	10	30.0
S Sherwood	3	13	23.1	R Dunwoody	37	126	29.4
Miss H Knight	6	28	21.4	J Titley	4	15	26.7
J Gifford	26	144	18.1	D Alers-Hanley	3	15	20.0
R Hodges	5	29	17.2	O Elwood	3	18	16.7

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

1.50 Porphyrios. 2.20 JIMMY'S CROSS (nap). 2.55 Darzee. 3.25 Dark Oak. 4.00 Pa D'Or. 4.30 Bell Staffboy. 5.00 Laburnum Gold.

Newmarket Correspondent: 3.25 MANEREE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.50 WIMBLINGTON FEN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,024: 2m 4f 110yd) (13 runners)

101 3F48 PORPHYRIOS 14 (S) K Bailey 5-11-10 ..... A Thornton
102 00 BETTER THAN BILLS 40 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 C Llewellyn
103 00 BROUGHTON'S PORT 11 W Musson 6-11-3 .. R Massey (5)
104 U103 HI HEDLEY 82 (F) G Hubbard 6-11-3 ..... K Gaule (3)
105 0F0 HILLSWICK 19 J King 5-11-3 ..... G Upton
106 0P6 NO MORALS 13 J Upson 5-11-3 ..... R Supple
107 000 TWICE SHY 10 (B) C Broad 5-11-3 ..... W Marston
108 P-P DAWN BALE 19 J Pickering 6-10-12 .. T Dascombe (5)
109 0000 LADY PENDRAGON 26 N Smith 7-10-12 .. Mr M Rodda
110 U4P0 PASJA 22 (V) S Eddings 5-10-12 ..... M Dwyer
111 P5P0 SCAMALLACH 18 (B) J Jenkins 6-10-12 ..... S Fox (5)
112 31 BARFORD SOVEREIGN 13 (C,F) J Fanshawe 4-10-10 .. P Hide
113 MARIONETTA 77F M Ryan 4-10-3 ..... J Ryan

5-2 Porphyrios, 3-1 Barford Sovereign, 9-2 Hi Hedley, 10-1 Hillswick, 12-1 Broughton's Port, Lady Pendragon, 14-1 others.

2.20 WIMBLINGTON FEN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,010: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

201 3182 JIMMY'S CROSS 21 (F,6) G Balding 6-11-10 .. A P McCoy
202 4362 TIM 15 (C,F) J Jenkins 6-11-10 ..... S Fox (5)
203 P6 NAPOLEON'S GOLD 20 A Foster 6-11-3 .. G Hogan (3)
204 00 THE MERRY MONK 11 H Sawyer 5-11-3 .. S Curran (3)
205 0 THE WHOLE LOT 39 Mrs E Heath 6-11-3 .. A Thornton
206 24-0 THEYDON PRIDE 13 K Clutterbuck 7-11-3 .. Mr R Walsley (7)
207 66-0 TWRSP 24 Mrs M Jones 5-11-3 ..... D Byrne
208 9-40 GILDORANS LASS 19 J Upson 5-10-12 .. R Supple
209 0-U0 MUNS LUCY 10 J Pickering 5-10-12 ..... D Bentley
210 5 CLEAN EDGE 117 M Tompkins 4-10-8 ..... D Gallagher
211 00 DASH TO THE PHONE 27 K Morgan 4-10-8 .. A S Smith
212 5P NINE BARROW DOWN 171 Miss M Rowland 4-10-8 Gary Lyons

5-4 Jimmy's Cross, 5-1 Tim, Clean Edge, 10-1 Dash To The Phone, 12-1 others

2.55 GLATTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,950: 3m 2f) (12)

301 3-22 HENRY CONE 22 (BF,6) D Nicholson 7-11-10 .. W Marston
302 -123 DARZEE 39 (BF,F,S) P Hedger 6-11-8 ..... Mr Clinton (7)
303 0F01 ULURU 13 (CD,F,G) C Nash 8-11-5 ..... J R Kavanagh
304 F624 STORM DRUM 18 (B,F,G,S) K Bailey 7-10-13. T J Murphy (3)
305 3P2 ASK ME KINDLY 22 D Sherwood 8-10-11 .. J A McCarthy
306 3400 NORTHUMBRIAN KING 81 (F,6,S) Mrs K Walton 10-10-10 J Callaghan
307 -102 CONVOY 15 (F,G) C Mann 6-10-3 ..... M Kelly (7)
308 4441 PETTAUGH 19 (F,S) G Hubbard 8-10-2 ..... K Gaule (3)
309 1144 CATS RUN 174 (D,F) J Upson 8-10-0 ..... R Supple
310 1-60 ACE PLAYER 39 (G) D Chappell 8-10-0 ..... G Upton
311 PP-0 ROCKTOR 77 (F,6,S) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-0 A Shoemaker
312 5050 PLATO'S REPUBLIC 39 (C,F) J Jenkins 5-10-0 .. S Fox (5)

3-1 Henry Cone, 7-2 Uluru, 5-1 Pettaugh, 6-1 Ask Me Kindly, 7-1 Darzee, 10-1 Northumbrian King, Storm Drum, 12-1 others.

3.25 WHITTLESEY HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,599: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

401 1610 DENVER BAY 13 (D,S) J Gifford 9-12-0 ..... L Aspell (5)
402 U144 DARK OAK 26 (D,F,6,S) J Curtis 10-11-12 ..... M Dwyer
403 1110 MANEREE 14 (C,D,F,6,S) N Callaghan 9-11-4 .. D Gallagher
404 U341 CROSS CANNON 21 (F,6) J Hellens 10-11-2 ..... T Reed
405 0302 SCOLE 11 (D,BF,6,S) G Hubbard 11-10-11 K Gaule (3)
406 16P5 CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 82 (F,6) G Balding 8-10-6 .. A P McCoy
407 55P4 KING'A SMART 13 (C,F,G,S) K Morgan 11-10-4 .. A S Smith
408 2P45 RAGLAN ROAD 13 (F,6,S) Miss A Embanks 12-10-1 .. J Ryan

11-4 Denver Bay, 3-1 Manneree, 7-2 Scole, 9-2 Cross Cannon, 6-1 Dark Oak, 10-1 Conti D'Estruval, 12-1 others

4.00 CROXTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,335: 2m 110yd) (22)

501 -6P1 AMAZE 18 (D,S) Lady Herries 7-11-10 ..... E Murphy
502 3P30 THE BOUNDER 18 (F) D Sherwood 8-11-7 .. J A McCarthy
503 4211 BO DU NORD 11 (D,F,S) S Campion 4-11-4 .. G Tormey (3)
504 1303 WISDOM 20 (V,D,BF,F) K Morgan 4-11-3 ..... A S Smith
505 -112 MR MORIARTY 25F (D,BF,F) S Bowring 5-11-3 .. A P McCoy
506 60-0 BLESSED MEMORY 24 R Dickin 5-10-12 ..... D Byrne
507 1501 SILVERDALE FOX 8 (D,F,S) K Hogg 9-10-12 (7ex) .. S Wynne
508 0P60 PA D'OR 18 J Gifford 6-10-10 ..... L Aspell (5)
509 5460 DESERT CHALLENGER 112 (B) J Jenkins 6-10-10 .. S Fox (5)
510 00F0 SOMMERSBY 11 Mrs N Macauley 5-10-10 Mr M H Naughton (7)
511 1U05 FEN TERRIER 14 (D,G) W Haggas 4-10-10 ..... G Hogan (3)
512 02-0 HUSH TINA 15 J Tuck 5-10-10 ..... S McNeill
513 0454 ASHBY HILL 15 R Rowe 5-10-6 ..... D O'Sullivan
514 05P5 BALLY PARSON 15 (F,G) R Dickin 10-10-6 .. Philip Hughes (7)
515 0600 DIDDY RYMER 15 Mrs S Smith 6-10-5 ..... R Guest
516 002 PORTSCATHO 19 (B) Miss J Doyle 4-10-4 ..... S Curran (3)
517 U023 SUPER SHARP 137 (G) H Oliver 8-10-3 ..... Jacqui Oliver
518 0B9F BIG TREAT 12 P Hatt 4-10-2 ..... W Marston
519 UP03 RELATIVE CHANCE 18 J King 7-10-2 ..... G Upton
520 P3P0 SOMMARIVA STAR 18 R Harris 6-10-1 ..... S Powell
521 060 VERDE LUNA 38F D Arbuthnot 4-10-0 .. T J Murphy (3)
522 -PP5 LOWAWATHA 13 Mrs E Heath 8-10-0 ..... R Supple

5-1 Amaze, 8-1 Relative Chance, Rio Du Nord, 10-1 Mr Monarty, 12-1 Wisdom, Portscatho, 14-1 others

4.30 LONGSTANTON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,285: 3m) (12)

601 -U21 GREY SMOKE 136 (D,F,S) Miss H Knight 6-11-9 J F Titley
602 5313 SHINING LIGHT 19 (G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-9 G Hogan (3)
603 F-0U AND WHY NOT 7 Mrs S Smith 8-11-3 ..... R Guest
604 3022 BELL STAFFBOY 28 (F,G) C Broad 7-11-3 .. W Marston
605 PU5 CLARMIONEY 19 J Hellens 8-11-3 ..... T Reed
606 4UF4 CHAPPUCCI 13 (6,S) Mrs E Heath 6-11-3 .. D Bentley
607 -510 COULIN LOCH 115 (F) M Williamson 7-11-3 .. R Supple
608 33PP LONG REACH 38 (B) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-3 .. C Llewellyn
609 3P32 OVER THE CORRIB 27 J Curtis 6-11-3 .. M Dwyer
610 -40U WILLERFOSS 20 B Rothwell 5-11-3 .. P Carberry
611 P506 MAARDO 18 J King 10-10-12 ..... G Upton
612 0PRP RAINCHECK 5 M Campion 5-10-7 ..... J Railton

7-4 Bell Staffboy, 9-4 Grey Smoke, 6-1 Shining Light, 10-1 Chappucci, 12-1 Over The Corrib, 14-1 Coulin Loch, 16-1 And Why Not, 25-1 others

5.00 MARK COLEY 50 PLUS BIRTHDAY BUMPER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,511: 2m 110yd) (22)

1 01 SALMON BREEZE 13 (F) N Henderson 5-11-11 .. M Lane (7)
2 31 SOUNDS LIKE FUN 68 (G) Miss H Knight 5-11-11 G F Ryan (5)
3 0 BEACON FLIGHT 39 B De Haan 5-11-4 ..... W Marston
4 4 BUKEHORN 13 Mrs P Sly 5-11-4 ..... R Morley
5 0 CORE BUSINESS 39 Lady Herries 5-11-4 ..... E Murphy
6 2-03 GOVERNOR JAMES 11 Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 Michael Brennan (7)
7 0 GROSVENOR 38 F Murphy 5-11-4 ..... P Carberry
8 LABURNUM GOLD Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 ..... A Bates (5)
9 MOOR DANCE MAN N Littmoden 6-11-4 ..... B Powell
10 6 ORCHARD KING 13 D Brennan 6-11-4 ..... W Walsh (7)
11 000 ROWDY YATES 4 B Rothwell 6-11-4 ..... Mr S Astaire
12 SCOUNDREL K Bailey 5-11-4 ..... A Thornton
13 5-20 SILVERDALE LAD 118 K Hogg 5-11-4 ..... S Wynne
14 SPRING GALE S Sherwood 5-11-4 ..... G Upton
15 0 ALRIGHT GUNNOR 22 N Smith 6-10-13 ..... Mr M Rodda
16 KONVEKTA QUEEN O Sherwood 5-10-13 .. J A McCarthy
17 03 MADAM MUCK 22 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-13 .. O Walsh (5)
18 M Bradley 5-10-13 ..... S Curran (3)
19 0 POLLYANNA 21 M Muggeridge 5-10-13 .. M Molloy (7)
20 QUERY LINE J Castle 5-10-13 ..... S Curran (3)
21 TIPSY QUEEN Miss E Whitehouse 5-10-13 .. G Llewellyn
22 4 ROTHARI 27 (BF) K Morgan 4-10-10 ..... A S Smith

3-1 Sounds Like Fun, 6-1 Silverdale Lad, 8-1 Salmon Breeze, 10-1 Mandlo, 12-1 Laburnum Gold, Governor Daniel, 14-1 others

☐ The Martell Grand National is set for its smallest field since 1980, when 30 runners went to post. Only 32 horses were declared at yesterday's acceptance stage, with 1994 winner Miinnehoma being the most notable absentee for Saturday's £250,000 race. Young Hustler is left to head the handicap on 11st 7lb, one of only nine horses set to race off their correct mark.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.30 Wixim. 3.05 Miletrian Refurb. 3.35 Jaraab. 4.10 Captain Carat. 4.40 Blue Movie. 5.10 Steadfast Elite.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Yeast. 4.40 Blue Movie.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN STRAIGHT) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.30 HOLYSTONE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,469 1m) (7 runners)

1 (4) 023- SHERAZ 110J N Tinkler 4-9-12 .. G Carter 90
2 (7) 632- YEAST 185 W Haggas 4-9-12 .. R Cochrane 89
3 (6) 54- KASHANA 298 W Storey 4-9-7 .. J Fanning –
4 (1) 00- BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 158 W Haigh 3-8-9 Dale Gibson –
5 (2) 0- GREEN BOPPER 180 M Bell 3-8-9 .. M Fenton 94
6 (3) 00- KNOWN SECRET 177 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-9 .. K Fallon 70
7 (11) 6- TINY ASTRO 351 T Easterby 3-8-9 .. M Birch –
8 (9) 5120 CHILBANG BANG 10 (D,6,S) J Berry 8-13 P Roberts (5) 81
9 (3) 850- HOBBS CHOICE 195 G Moore 8-9 .. Dale Gibson 67
10 (10) 500- PEARLS OF THOUGHT 155 J Haldane 8-9 .. K Darley 86
11 (4) 300- RAGTIME COWGIRL C Thornton 8-9 .. K Fallon 98
12 (8) 00- SUPREME SCHOLAR 295 (B) B Murray 8-9 G Parkin (5) –
13 (5) WOOM R Charlton 3-8-9 .. D McKeown –
14 (6) WOOM R Charlton 3-8-9 .. K Darley –

7-4 Wixim, 9-4 Green Bopper, 7-2 Yeast, 5-1 Sheraz, 10-1 Known Secret, 14-1 Kashana, 25-1 Batoutofthebluе

3.05 KILLINGW

London's latest recruit looks forward to new life in different league

Paul ready to join Broncos' charge

Andrew Longmore meets a former shoe salesman who has switched rugby codes

If the rugby league Super League could be won by words alone, the title is all over bar the shouting. London Broncos are the Wigan of chat. But at least they are putting their money behind their marketing mouths by pitching a total novice into the hurly-burly of the much-trumpeted opening day.

Not just a run-of-the-mill novice either, a tall, elegant, well-spoken refugee from rugby union who was selling shoes in the local branch of Footholds when the first rumblings of Super League were heard. This time last summer. Junior Paul's experience of rugby league extended no further than his television set.

Surrounded by grizzled veterans from both hemispheres, fortified by the advertisements which claim that the summer game will be tougher, faster and harder than the dandified winter version, Paul will need nerves of steel to survive his first test, at Thrum Hall, Halifax, on Saturday. He was picked on when he made his debut for the Broncos against Sheffield Eagles on a bleak night just before Christmas and, by his own admission, had an uncomfortable time. The bullying will be Super League class this time. But the new Broncos coach, Tony Currie, is happy to give the young Londoner his chance.

"He's fast, he's strong and his improvement over the past three or four weeks has been phenomenal," Currie said. He is also local, born not far from the Broncos' permanent home at The Valley and schooled at the rugby union greenhouse of St Joseph's Academy, where he was a prolific try-scorer.

It is tempting to suggest that Paul's rise owes more than a touch to the management's need for an eye-catching story and a little injection of community interest in a club which has 25 players on its books, 22 of them Australian. If so, it is a bold gamble.

"I just wish I had started playing league earlier," Paul said. "But I just didn't have the right guidance." From a promising school career on the wing, he drifted in and out of the Old Askeans side, rarely getting a game for the first XV because his face did not fit.

"The place in the side usually went to someone's aunt's first cousin's second son," he said. "To be honest, I lost interest and didn't play for several years."

Watching league on television was as close as he came to playing any game. He thought it looked slow and easy until, through a contact with John Gallagher, the former All Black and Leeds league player, then development officer of rugby league in London, he joined Bexley Heath, one of the 25 amateur league clubs in the capital, last summer and discovered the truth. "I was shattered after the first game," he recalled. Shattered, but fulfilled. And so brimful of raw talent that the Broncos took an interest and thrust him into the Stones Championship.

"I was only told a couple of days before that I would be playing," Paul said. "On reflection, I wish I had said 'no', but I'd said 'yes' before I had really thought about it. I just wasn't ready. I didn't know what I should be doing and, of course, Sheffield knew I was making my debut. Nothing went right." This time, he hopes, will be better. "I am better prepared."

Instead of a 45-minute run-out on a Thursday evening with Bexley Heath, Paul is training three times a day as a fully contracted professional with the Broncos, mixing it with hardened internationals like Terry Maddison, the club captain and stalwart of the great, pioneering, Brisbane Broncos side. At the age of 24, he has little time to waste.

Whether the new London Broncos will fare any better than their predecessors, who finished second from bottom in the championship, is open to question. Only half the battle will be on the field. Winning the minds of Londoners will be just as hard.

The Broncos should be given full marks for enterprise, though. Five thousand Easter eggs will be distributed to supporters at the home game against Paris Saint-Germain, on April 4. All that, and a shoe salesman on the wing.

TONY WHITE



Paul says he is ready to mix it with the best for London Broncos on Saturday

Australian players may turn to Europe

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MAURICE LINDSAY, the Rugby Football League's chief executive, will arrive back from Sydney alone tomorrow, but he has suggested that the few rebel players still holding out against a return to the Australian Rugby League (ARL) might follow him to England.

Lindsay says he has been besieged by requests to play in the European Super League and Ricky Stuart and Laurie Daley, the Australia half-back pair, are among those willing to take part. His advice to the players, however, was to go back to the ARL in the short term after the abandonment of the proposed Global League competition, whose cause had been championed by Lindsay since the four-year ban imposed on the Australian Super League by the Sydney Federal Court a fortnight ago.

The competition was rendered a non-starter by a court ruling in Sydney yesterday that News Limited, the Australian arm of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, could only pay players still under contract to the Australian Super League if they returned to the ARL. Ken Cowley, chairman and chief executive of News Ltd, urged players to play under the ARL banner and await the outcome in May of an appeal against the ban on the Super League.

The advice was heeded by most of the 311 rebel players, apart from a handful at Brisbane and Canberra, where Stuart and Daley have hinted they might even sit out the season. It means the second round of the ARL premiership should return to something like normal, after the severe disruption caused by player absenteeism last weekend.

After the Global League's swift collapse, hopes of a world club championship between the top four European and Australian Super League sides in September rest on the week-long appeal hearing, starting on May 23.

Agreement appears closer

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs in England edged warily closer to each other yesterday. After more than six hours' discussion in London, agreement in principle was reached on several issues, but differences remain in such areas as player contracts and competition structures.

Both parties will hope to resolve those differences before Sunday, when RFU officials are due to meet the 40 clubs who make up the National Clubs Association.

"There is an enormous amount of work to be done before the start of next season," Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive committee chairman, said. "We have been burning the midnight oil for many weeks; the time frame is very short, but we have to get it done."

Central to the debate have been players contracts, with the clubs seeking primacy whereas the RFU wants the same control as that negotiated by their southern hemisphere counterparts. Among the outside observers were Jonathan Crystal, a lawyer familiar with the legal niceties of football.

However, both sides remain in touch, which is more than can be said of the situation in France, where Bernard Lapasset's position as federation president is under threat. The federation's management committee has found itself bypassed in the decision-making process and Lapasset is also under fire for his handling of marketing contracts by the French sports ministry.

☐ In the semi-finals of the Swalec Cup, Pontypridd will play Llanelli and Newport will meet Neath. The ties will be played back-to-back on neutral grounds on April 13.

Corsie back on right course

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN ADELAIDE

RICHARD CORSIE, the Commonwealth champion, shrugged off his disappointment at losing the pairs final on Sunday and made a crisp start to his challenge for the world outdoor singles title here yesterday.

Corsie and his partner, Alex Marshall, were beaten by Jeremy Henry and Sammy Allen, of Ireland, a defeat which prompted him to change his trusty bowls. The move worked as Corsie dispatched Jacob Van Deventer, of Zambia, 25-10, and Patrick Knight, of Brazil, 25-9. Knight had earlier turned a few heads when he raced into a 10-4 lead over Allen, but the Irish veteran moved up a gear and scored 21 shots without reply to win 25-10.

Tony Allcock, the champion, who had a bye in the first round, seemed to have the measure of Oliver Fowler, of Kenya, but struggled to finish him off, and had to settle for a modest 25-17 victory. John Price, of Wales, and the antipodean challengers, Kelvin Kerkow, of Australia, and Rowan Brassey, of New Zealand, all avoided defeat on the opening day.

There were several surprises in the fours event. Norfolk Island, an Australian protectorate, took delight in overturning New Zealand, 21-19, while Cook Islands, skipped by their deputy prime minister, Inatio Akaruru, forced a creditable tie with Noel Graham's Ireland quartet, all of whom are in their twenties.

No team, on the day, however, could match the performance of the Wales four, skipped by Robert Weale, who beat Western Samoa 48-7. England began with a 27-14 victory over Guernsey while Scotland beat Malawi 33-12.

RADIO CHOICE

A taste for the spider

Venom: Spiders. *Radio 4 (FM) 10.00am.*

Jeremy Grange must have nerves of steel and/or the skin of a rhino. How else could he have embarked on his series about the mainly antisocial behaviour of spiders, snakes and jellyfish? It is not enough to be told about the Venezuelan spider that hitched a lift in a coffin and, after draining the blood from the corpse, left it all desiccated. We must also learn about what the bite of the Black Widow spider can do — inflict pain so severe that it makes victims feel that wild dogs are tearing them apart. We learn about some South American Indians who eat spiders, first removing the fangs which they use as toothpicks, and there is the unpalatable truth about Little Miss Muffet's arachnophobia.

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

I do not mean to marginalise Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* or Gordon Langford's *Rhapsody on Sea Shanties*, but, of the three works tonight, it is Debussy's *La Mer* that has the saltiest taste. Astonishingly, Lalo said that when he listened to *La Mer* he could not hear, see or feel the sea; and I reject what one eminent American music critic wrote: "A Gallic picture of the sea is apt to run more to stewards, basins and lemons than to the wild majesty of Poseidon." We do not know whether it was the sea off the Channel Islands or Eastbourne that inspired Debussy, but we do know that his chosen cover design for the score was a big Japanese wave.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans, incl Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and at **6.00** the Drive-In **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Cling Film **10.00** Mark Lamarr with Moloko in session **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Brian Matthew **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hayes over Britain **8.30** Kalangadoo Junction (5/6) **9.00** It's All Greek to Me **10.00** Film Star David Niven **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden including at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester, including at **3.30** Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Environment News **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five, incl **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, with Julian Worricker **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** The Tuesday Match **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT 5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** New Ideas **7.50** A Day in the Life of an Insect **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News in German **9.15** My Music **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Thirty-Minute Drama **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Three Days in Jerusalem **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.00** News in German **3.15** On Screen **3.30** Omnibus **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **8.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** World News **11.10** Invitation to the Dance **11.15** Anything Goes **11.45** Country Style **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Rat Pack **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** On Screen **1.30** Dear Diary **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Andy Kershaw **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Discovery **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Reed **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** The Opera Guide **8.00** Evening Concert. See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Schubert (Symphony No 9 in C); **7.05** Reger (Frühlingsblick, Op 39 No 3) **8.05** Arnold (Three Shanties); Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in E flat)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F, BWV 565); Mahler (Symphony No 5, Adagietto); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3, BWV 1048)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes **10.15** *Artist of the Week:* Kathryn Stott, piano, plays Debussy (Images) **11.00** Fasch (Concerto in D minor); Bridge (Phantasm)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Rubbra, with Roderic Dunnett
1.00pm International Winds. Includes Sibelius (Preludio); Tristan Keuris (Catena)
2.00 Schools Playtime **2.15** Time to Move **2.35** Listen!
3.00 Popular Music. Mike Hurst explores the magical era of the 1950s
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Presented by Humphrey Carpenter. Includes **6.03** Duke Ellington (Harlem Airshaft)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Live from the Royal Festival Hall in London, under Andrew Davies. With Patrick Gallois, flute, Fabrice Pierre, harp, Lars Vogt, piano, Patricia Rozario, soprano, Takemitsu (Toward the Sea II); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat) **8.15** Daniel Snowman talks to the singer Roy Henderson **8.35** Vaughan Williams (Pastoral Symphony, No 3)
9.30 Young Poets
9.40 Intersections. Fretwork performs consort music by Purcell, Cornyshe, Robert Parsons and John Woolrich (3/4)
10.00 Made for TV. *Armchair Theatre (4/5)*
10.35 Shostakovitch v Bach. Bach (Prelude and Fugue in C sharp, Book I No 3); Shostakovitch (Prelude and Fugue in D flat, Op 87 No 15)
10.45 Night Waves, with Sally Magnusson
11.30-12.30am Music Restored. Linda Nicholson, fortepiano, and Hiro Kurosaki, violin, perform sonatas by Schobert and Beethoven

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **(LW** only) **6.00** News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross
10.00 News; Venom (FM only). See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Medicine Now
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Double Vision (r) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Books and Company (4/5) (r)
2.30 Mirrored In Music
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope
4.45 Short Story: A Short Life of Juanito. By Una Leonie Flett Read by Vivienne Dixon (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Board Game. Nigel Cassidy chairs the business quiz **7.00 News**
7.20 File on 4
8.00 Science Now. Peter Evans and guests review the results of Megalab 96 (r)
8.30 The New Sexual Nature. Dr Gillian Rice explores the implications of being able to choose the sex of your offspring (3/4)
9.00 In Touch. Peter White with news and information for visually impaired people
9.30 Kaleidoscope, with Paul Vaughan (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight With Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Picnic at Hanging Rock Lisa Harrow reads Joan Lindsay's haunting novel (7/10) (r)
11.00 Medianwave (r)
11.30 Four Corners (FM only) Tim Grundy reports from Iceland, the Canadian Rockies and Sicily (4/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00 News Incl **12.27am** approx Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Metroland. Julian Barnes reads his first novel (7/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 14

PA'ANGA

(c) The monetary unit of Tonga. The Tongan word. *The Times*, 1966: "Tonga has decided against calling its new decimal currency unit the dollar because the native word, *tola*, also means a pig's snout, the soft end of a coconut, or, in vulgar language, a mouth. The new unit, to be introduced next year, will be called a pa'anga, which has only two alternative meanings — a coin-shaped seed and, not surprisingly, money."

RACLETTE

(a) A fondue-like dish consisting of cheese melted before an open fire, scraped onto a plate, and served with potatoes. From the French for a scraper. "Raclette is a speciality of the Valais. A whole side of cheese is grilled in front of a brazier, the sizzling bits scraped onto your plate, and served with potatoes boiled in their skins and gherkins."

RODHAM

(b) A raised bank in the Fen district of East Anglia, consisting of the bed and levees of a dry river-course which have been raised above the level of the adjacent land by deposition of silt, usually by the incoming tide, and by compaction and the lowering of the adjacent peat soil; occasionally used to signify only a levee bounding such a river-course.

PLOTZ

(b) To sit down wearily, to flop; to slouch or loaf (around). An adaptation of the Yiddish *platsen*. German *platzen* to burst, influenced by the German *platz*: a place or seat. "He just kind of plotzed around waiting to fall into some kind of a cushy job."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. d6! Bxd6; 2. NE and the black bishop is lost.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday March 30 unless stated

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA CUP SEMI-FINALS

Not on coupons: Aston Villa v Liverpool (at Old Trafford, Sunday), Chelsea v Manchester United (at Villa Park, Sunday)

FA PREMIERSHIP

Not on coupons: Blackburn v Everton, Bolton v Manchester City, Leeds v Middlesbrough; QPR v Southampton, Tottenham v Coventry Wimbledon v Nottingham Forest

FIRST DIVISION

1 Derby v Stoke 1
2 Grimsby v Birm'gham 1
3 Leicester v Sheff U 1
4 Luton v Ipswich 2
5 Millwall v C Palace 1
6 Norwich v Charlton X
7 P Vale v Barnsley 1
8 Portsmouth v WBA X
9 Reading v Oldham X
10 Southend v Tranmere 1
11 Sunderl'd v Huddersf'd 1
12 Wolves v Watford 1

SECOND DIVISION

13 Blackpool v Brentford 1
14 Bourn'm'th v Bristol R X
15 Bradford v Swansea 1
16 Brighton v Rotherham 1
17 Bristol C v Swindon X
18 Crewe v Chest'field 1
19 Notts Co v Carlisle 1
20 Peterboro v Walsall X
21 Shrewsbury v Hull 1
22 Stockport v Oxford X
23 Wrexham v York 1
24 Wycombe v Burnley 1

THIRD DIVISION

25 Cardiff v Cambr'ge 1
26 Darl'gton v Lincoln 1
27 Doncaster v Chester 2
28 Exeter v Barnet 1
29 Fulham v Plymouth 2
30 Hartlep'l v Colchester 2
31 Leyton O v Bury 1
32 Mansfield v Wigan 2
33 North'pton v Sc'thorpe 1
34 Rochdale v Gillingham 2
35 Scarboro v Preston 2
36 Torquay v Hereford 2

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

37 Bath v Runcorn 1
38 Bromsgrove v Slough X
39 Dover v Morecambe X

SCOTTISH PREMIER

40 Falkirk v Hearts 2
41 Hibernian v Kilmam'k 1
42 Partick v Motherwell 1
43 Raith v Rangers 2

Not on coupons: Celtic v Aberdeen (Monday)

SCOTTISH FIRST

44 Airdrie v Dumb'ton 1
45 Clydeb'k v Dunf'mline 2
46 Dundee v G Morton 1
47 S J'stone v Hamilton 1
48 St Mirren v Dundee U X

SCOTTISH SECOND

49 Berwick v Clyde 1
50 Forfar v Ayr X
51 Montrose v E Fife 2
52 Stir'g v Stenh'muir 1
53 Stranraer v Q of S'th 2

SCOTTISH THIRD

54 Arbroath v Alloa 1
55 Cowdenb'th v Albion 1
56 Liv'gston v E Stirling 1
57 Q Park v Caledonian X
58 Ross v Brechin 1

DRAWS (home teams): Norwich, Portsmouth, Reading, Bournemouth, Bristol City, Peterborough, Stockport, Bromsgrove, Dover, St Mirren, Forfar, Queen's Park.
BEST DRAWS: Norwich, Reading, Bournemouth, Stockport, St Mirren.
AWAYS: Ipswich, Chester, Plymouth, Wigan, Preston.
HOMES: Southend, Blackpool, Bradford, Notts County, Wrexham, Wycombe, Exeter, Northampton, Bath, Partick, Airdrie, Berwick.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Bradford, Wrexham, Wycombe, Bath, Partick. Aways: Ipswich, Colchester, Wigan Draws: Norwich, Stockport, St Mirren

☐ Vince Wright

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	30	100	good	heavy	fair	sun	10	23/3
	(Good spring skiing, warm sunshine)							
St Anton	50	220	fair	heavy	slush	sun	10	23/3
	(Still good cover on most slopes; bare patches low down)							
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	110	140	fair	heavy	worn	sun	3	22/3
	(Lots of slush after lunch; top pistes best)							
La Plagne	95	195	fair	varied	slush	thaw	8	22/3
	(Very mild; heavy conditions, some surface water)							
Tignes	105	200	good	varied	worn	fair	10	22/3
	(Lower slopes losing cover; some muddy patches)							
Val Thorens	60	200	fair	varied	fair	cloud	5	22/3
	(Conditions becoming slushy; colder weather forecast)							
ITALY								
Cervinia	135	330	good	heavy	fair	cloud	7	25/3
	(Generally good; typical spring skiing)							
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	50	50	fair	heavy	fair	sun	5	23/3
	(Warm weather; slushy and bare patches developing)							
C Montana	0	225	fair	heavy	worn	fine	0	22/3
	(Warm conditions affecting pistes; glacier best)							
Grindelwald	10	60	poor	poor	closed	cloud	14	22/3
	(Snow cover very slushy; not freezing at night)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper

Tonight on BBC2, children sharing their suites & cornets.

BBC The Brass Final, 7.30pm. BBC Young Musicians '96 Events. Lloyds Bank

Special pleading from a cash-strapped force

You may reasonably have thought that a documentary about the role of the Specials in policing Britain would be a reliable refuge from Edwina Currie. Alas, the realisation that Channel 4 had taken its cameras to Derbyshire should have been sufficient warning.

Thus it was that last night, halfway through **Cutting Edge: Special Force**, we came upon Edwina and her village Special Constable, standing face to face on the hearthrug in front of a log fire. She opined that they had not met before. If this was a nudge or a wink, the Special Constable did us all a favour by ignoring it.

He had in fact stopped her car late one night in the course of a routine check and asked her if she had been drinking. The question was perfectly timed to induce panic in a mere mortal: Edwina was driving her husband home after dinner at a brewery.

Edwina owned up to "two halves of lager, four hours earlier" and the constable decided, on the basis of her general demeanour, that there would be no need for a breath test. Presented with the chance of 15 minutes of tabloid fame ("Edwina couldn't even get drunk in a brewery"), the constable had blown it.

Derbyshire has one of Britain's more controversial police forces. The national target is for 20 per cent of all police to be Specials by the end of the century, but Derbyshire already has 25 per cent.

That is partly because Derbyshire is underfunded (though that claim was not explained last night) and has failed its Home Office test three years in a row. Therefore the force is giving Specials a bigger share of policing because Specials come free.

The Police Federation objects, but then it would. A sergeant from the federation said that whereas regulars had ten months of training, the Specials had ten days. This was all very well for routine patrols and traffic duty, but in his view the Specials were being given tasks for which they were unfit.

Colleen Denby, a Special who runs a cake shop, was followed around by the cameras and demonstrated that whatever she might lack in experience was compensated for in common sense. She met an interesting range of drunks: "Some are quite cheerful and just want to hold your hand or have a cuddle. Some want to hit you."

Policing is not the only area of life where divisions exist between "proper" exponents and the rest. Actors suffer, too. Prunella Scales tells of meeting people while out walking with Timothy West, her husband.

"Thank you for all the pleasure you've given us in Shakespeare," the punter will announce to West, before turning to Scales. "Of course we've seen you, too, but you do comedy, don't you?"

This is to patronise a consummate actress whose Sybil in *Fawlty Towers* was one of the classics of television. Last night she began a new series, **Acting With ...** (BBC2 except Wales, where it will be shown this Friday).

A W... is a master-class, though Scales hates the word. She took pairs of young actors through texts from *The Birthday Party*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, in a fascinating voyage around the actor's art.

In particular, she passed on something learnt from John Gielgud about emphasis: that in a given sentence there is invariably only one word that requires emphasis and the actor's task is to identify it.

There was a wonderfully comic moment when Scales called one of the actors "luvvie" and immediately leapt on herself: "Actors never call each other luvvie, it's all got up by the press." I sensed that this little rant had been planned to lighten the mood, but planned or not it showed a deft touch in the handling of what is essentially a rehearsal atmosphere.

If one was seeking a grouse it would be that for a television audience, a scene from *Fawlty Towers* would have been enlightening. The faultless delivery of Scales and Cleese in that show wrung every last nuance from the script and I would have welcomed a glimpse of the methodology.

Fishing, also known as angling, is the most popular participant sport in Britain but that does not make the assessment by the American comedian Steve Wright any less perceptive: that there is a thin line between fishing and standing on a river bank looking like an idiot.

In **Go Fishing** (Channel 4) last night we were confronted with the presenter John Wilson not only standing beside the Wensum in Norfolk, but also crawling towards its bank on all fours, to avoid casting a shadow over the water in which lurked chub. Daddy, daddy, what's that man doing? Hush, child, I'll tell you when you are older.

I will cheerfully toss about in a boat at sea in search of fish that have long since been vacuumed-up by Spanish trawlers, registered in Newlyn, whose skippers have grand old Cornish names such as Jose and Manuel. But river fishing? Far too easy.

Rivers have men called keepers who breed fish in tanks. They tip the fish into the river and the fishermen come along with their rods and hoik them out. A piece of cake compared with dropping a line off the Lizard when the nearest fish is 50 miles away.

Yes, I know: I'm missing something. And Wilson makes *Go Fishing* worth the watching. He conveys a genuine admiration for the fish. Not even John Motson drooling over Eric Cantona can match Wilson with a salmon on his hook: "Look at that! He's still going! Beautiful!" Glorious madness.

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

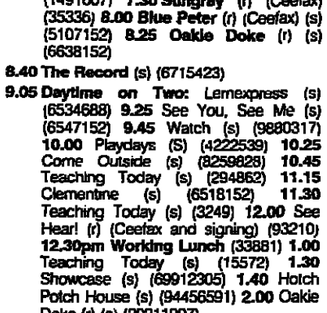
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (83572)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (47171)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6537775)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2963171)
9.45 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (8787626)
0.30 Good Morning (s) (97607)
2.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2814591)
2.05pm Turnabout (s) (5237133)
2.30 Going for a Song (42539)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (17930)
1.30 Regional News and weather (67112323)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94465249)
2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (8143997)
2.40 The Rockford Files (r) (1857626)
3.30 Arts in Your Pants (s) (6724591) **3.50 Orville and Cuddles** (s) (4708249) **3.55 Chuckievision** (s) (6743626) **4.15 Free Willy** (Ceefax) (s) (2289882) **4.35 Take Two** (Ceefax) (s) (2520220) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3379572) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1989220)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (130336)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (423)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (775)
7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando experiences New Zealand's volcanic landscape and the bubbling geysers alongside the bush and coastline of the Coromandel peninsula; Sankha Guha visits Palma, Majorca; Monty Don scrutinises Berlin and Kevin Woodford visits Whitby, the town that boasts connections with Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Ceefax) (s) (5249)
7.30 EastEnders. Sam sets the record straight and shocks Peggy and when Cindy learns of Ian's future plans, she decides it is time to make David act (Ceefax) (s) (959)
8.00 Great Ormond Street. Tales of heartbreak and courage from the wards of the famous children's hospital, including a six-year-old with one of the largest chest tumours the hospital has ever treated (Ceefax) (s) (4997)
8.30 The Brittas Empire. Comedy of errors with the pedantic leisure centre manager, Chris Barrie (Ceefax) (s) (3404)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7442)
9.30 They Think It's All Over. The comedian Nick Hancock competes a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker who are joined by regulars Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. This week's guests are Steve Cram and Craig Charles (Ceefax) (s) (22775)
10.00 The Oscars. Barry Norman presents a specially-edited round-up of the 68th annual Academy Awards ceremony (Ceefax) (s) (8794)
12.00 FILM: Network (1976) starring Peter Finch (who won a posthumous Oscar), Faye Dunaway, William Holden and Beatrice Straight. A satirical drama about an increasingly unhinged television anchorman. Directed by Sidney Lumet (Ceefax) (99195)
12.00am Weather (6048027)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Edison — the invention of invention (7960794) **6.50 Cheddar** (6599317) **7.15 See Hear Breakfast News** (Ceefax and signing) (1491607) **7.30 Stingray** (r) (Ceefax) (35336) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5107152) **8.25 Oakie Doke** (r) (s) (6638152)
8.40 The Record (s) (6715423)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Lemexpress (s) (6534688) **9.25** See You, See Me (s) (6547152) **9.45** Watch (s) (9880317) **10.00** Playdays (S) (4222539) **10.25** Come Outside (s) (8259828) **10.45** Teaching Today (s) (294862) **11.15** Clementine (s) (6518152) **11.30** Teaching Today (s) (3249) **12.00** See Hear! (r) (Ceefax and signing) (93210) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (33881) **1.00** Teaching Today (s) (15572) **1.30** Showcase (s) (69912305) **1.40** Hotch Potch House (s) (94456591) **2.00** Oakie Doke (r) (s) (20211997)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (4892171)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (4447797)
3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (6471572)
3.55 News (Ceefax) (4798862)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (688) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (572) **5.00 Esther** (s) (6355)
5.30 The Village. Last programme in the documentary series about a Hampshire village (152)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (132355)
6.25 Heartbreak High. Steve's vanishing act worries his pals; Matt's father arrives at Hartley and Bolton moves into the warehouse with Allie (Ceefax) (s) (858256)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. Animation (Ceefax) (s) (785881)



Five talented musicians (7.30pm)

7.30 Young Musicians 96. National Brass Final. Jury members John Miller, David Purser and Richard Watkins pick this year's brass finalist from five highly talented young musicians. The winner goes forward to Sunday's Concerto final (s) (74355)
8.30 Food and Drink. Chris Kelly and the team with recipes, tastings, features and news from the food and drink business (Ceefax) (s) (1046)
9.00 Murder One. Neil Avedon is granted bail in the matter of Jessica Costello's death (Ceefax) (s) (799626)
9.45 CHOICE **Straight from the Heart** (Ceefax) (s) (929442)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (204065)
11.15 The All-New Alexei Sayle Show (r) (s) (383355) **WALES: 11.15-12.00** Wales 2006 — the Agenda (383355)
11.45 Holiday Outings (s) (254930)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (94553)
12.30am7.15 Learning Zone: Open University

CHOICE

Motormania
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The story of Britain and the motor car reaches the Second World War and almost comes to a full stop. With car factories taken over for more pressing needs, and petrol rationed and then virtually withdrawn, there were no new cars to buy and little chance of using existing ones. Moreover, the blackout made driving dangerous and 1941 saw a record number of road deaths, despite a halving of traffic compared with before the war. All of this is recorded in a lively mixture of reminiscence and archive film. Stories of black-market petrol, and of petrol substitutes, are particularly diverting. Even after the war most car production went for export and petrol remained on ration. The Morris Minor, offering new extras such as a heater and a radio, was the star of the first postwar Motor Show. But it was easier to buy one in Sweden than in Britain.

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm and 9.30pm

The only thing wrong with tonight's items is that both could have been longer. The *Without Walls* format of two half-hour films can bring welcome discipline but it is also restricting when there is more to say. Jonathon Green's investigation into slang raises all sorts of intriguing questions which there is no time to develop. But his argument that slang is a welcome challenge to the moralistic and pretentious is persuasively made. The American cop series *Starsky and Hutch* likewise deserves more than this brief and somewhat hectic analysis, intelligent though it is on the show's attitudes towards violence, blacks, women and male relationships. The film, the first of three on television police series, is a reminder that however transparent popular drama might appear, it is never ideologically neutral.

Straight From the Heart: Guilty Secrets
BBC2, 9.45pm

The series about real-life love stories continues to prove that potentially sensational material can be treated in a sensitive and honest way. All of tonight's stories are the stuff of which tabloid headlines are made. What we get instead is sober, thoughtful recollection. The common thread is a guilty secret. Stella loved one man but married another. John's marriage lasted a long time and produced five children. But eventually he had to admit that he was a transsexual and wanted to live as a woman. Lawrence, out of work for long periods, developed a compulsive shopping fantasy. He imagined himself as John Travolta and bought clothes to match. His spending, concealed from his wife, brought the family finances to the edge of ruin.

And the Beat Goes On
Channel 4, 10.00pm

The Liverpool-based Sixties drama continues to harp on sex and class. These were the days when, if a girl got pregnant, the boy felt forced to marry her, unless the problem could be solved by a do-it-yourself abortion. It was the time when gay relationships, still outside the law, exposed the participants to blackmail. And a newly assertive working class was challenging what it saw as middle-class complacency. All these themes are woven into Joe Ainsworth's script, and indeed they form the bulk of it. As a result sociology tends to swamp character. Meanwhile, Jenny Agutter claims the most individual performance as the unhappy spouse of Stephen Moore's aspiring Conservative MP. Her strained and miserable face, as she reluctantly plays the political wife, is acting which conceals acting.

Peter Waymark

ITV/REGIONAL

6.00am GMTV (5803012)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2948862)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4209688)
10.00 The Time ... the Place (s) (8404201)
10.35 This Morning (98463775)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2810775)
12.30 News & Weather (Teletext) (7697442)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7672133) **1.25 High Road** (Teletext) (3976864) **2.00** (Teletext) (s) (30546317) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (30558152) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4151249)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (3090077)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (1392828)
3.30 The Magic House (s) (5510152) **3.40 Tots TV** (r) (s) (2525607) **3.50 Sooty and Co** (r) (s) (6720775) **4.15 Animaniacs** (r) (Teletext) (s) (9999242) **4.40 Island** (Teletext) (1343171)
5.10 Animal Country (9416423)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (656959)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (129881)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (394084)
7.00 Emmerdale. Nick has an encounter with poachers; while Kathy's evening ends in a passionate clinch (Teletext) (s) (7107)
7.30 West Eye View. Current affairs magazine (Teletext) (355)
8.00 The Bill. Conway has to defend Loxton and Keane, when a young tearaway is injured (Teletext) (9065)
8.30 Married for Life. Ted decides it is high time he had some recognition from his boss (Teletext) (s) (8572)



Shepherd and McLeod (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice Will's relationship with Kate reaches a critical point as he and Andrew disagree over the welfare of a 12-year-old boy. With Simon Shepherd, Gary Marvers and Shelagh McLeod (Teletext) (s) (9751)
10.00 News & weather (Teletext) (43715)
10.30 Regional News (429997)
10.40 Savage Skies. Using rare and astonishing footage, the programme traces the lifespan of the whirlwind that devastated Wichita, Kansas, in 1991 (Teletext) (404978)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (537065)
12.35 FILM: Black Moon Rising (1986) starring Tommy Lee Jones, Linda Hamilton and Robert Vaughan. A professional thief is hired by the FBI to steal a top-secret computer tape from a corporation, but the assignment proves to be problematic. Directed by Harley Cokliss (173911)
2.25 Late & Loud (s) (2046244)
3.25 The Chart Show (r) (s) (1080805)
4.15 ITV Sport Mini Classics (46457447)
4.25 Football Extra (r) (6127992)
5.00 The West at Work (63517)
5.30 Morning News (99008)

SCHOOLS

As HTV WEST except:
5.10pm-5.40 The Really Helpful Programme (9416423)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (394084)
7.30-8.00 Grass Roots (355)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Emmerdale (7672133)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (58301256)
1.55 Home and Away (42046959)
2.25 Vanessa (30549404)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3091171)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9416423)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (45626)
7.30-8.00 Wild West Country (355)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7672133)
1.25 Chain Letters (58301256)
1.55 A Country Practice (94462152)
2.20 Vanessa (30540133)
2.50-3.20 Look and Cook (4151249)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9416423)
6.25-7.00 Central News (394084)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (355)
11.40 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner (421201)
1.25am Late & Loud (4483756)
2.30 Hotel Babylon (4482669)
3.05 Funny Business (18373805)
3.35 Football Extra (9848485)
4.15 Jobfinder (4727008)
5.20 Asian Eye (8745089)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (7672133)
1.25 Home and Away (58301256)
1.55 Shortland Street (94462152)
2.20 Vanessa (30540133)
2.50-3.20 A Tale of Four Sea Ports (4151249)
5.10 Home and Away (9416423)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (591)
6.30-7.00 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (171)
7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (355)

S4C

Starts: 6.30 Chicken Minute (80210) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (30881) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (10442) **9.30 Ysgolion: Iawl** (5926404) **9.50 Iawl** (5946268) **10.10 Maths Everywhere** (3904571) **10.25 Japan 2000** (4447576) **10.45 Quest** (3033171) **11.00 Science in Focus** (6708881) **11.20 Stage One** (6861997) **11.30 Penawdau** (4187133) **11.35 Film and Video Showcase** (9655171) **11.45 First Edition** (4197152) **12.00 House to House** (93238) **12.30pm Earthworm Jim** (35249) **1.00 Slot Melthrin** (40268) **1.30 Keepers of the Kingdom** (10133) **2.30 Those British Faces** (404) **3.00 Food File** (6978) **3.30 Go Fishing** (249) **4.00 Jimmy's** (864) **4.30 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (268) **5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5** (1423) **5.30 Countdown** (220) **6.00 Newyddion** (585423) **6.15 Heno** (753620) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (407591) **7.25 Sgrin Ti Synfad?** (672794) **8.00 Pacio** (7607) **8.30 Newyddion** (9442) **9.00 And the Beat Goes On** (8423) **10.00 Brookside** (43797) **10.30 Cutting Edge: Special Force** (53591) **11.30 Father Ted** (99046) **12.00am A Brief History of Slang** (89621) **12.30 C4PD: Starsky and Hutch** (65553)

CHANNEL

6.30am Chicken Minute (r) (80210)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30881)
9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (10442)
9.30 Schools: The Mix (9870930) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (9808713) **10.00 Fourways Farm** (7685930) **10.10 Maths Everywhere** (3904571) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (4447576) **10.45 Quest** (3033171) **11.00 Science in Focus** (6708881) **11.20 Stage One** (6500133) **11.35 Film & Video Showcase** (9655171) **11.45 First Edition** (4197152)
12.00 House to House (93238)
12.30pm Sesame Street (19404) **1.30 Ovide** (42052510) **1.55 The Seasons.** Animation to the music of Tchaikovsky (26907341)
2.05 FILM: My Gal Sal (1942) starring Victor Mature and Rita Hayworth. A biopic of the 19th-century songwriter Paul Dresser and the love of his life, the musical comedy star Sally Elliott. Directed by Irving Cummings (316997)
4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (864) **4.30 Countdown.** (Teletext) (s) (268) **5.00 The Montel Williams Show** (Teletext) (s) (2537305)
5.50 Terrytoons(834201)
6.00 The Avengers (r) (Teletext) (43268)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (429539)
7.55 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (722572)
8.00 CHOICE **Motor Mania: Is Your Journey Necessary?** (Teletext) (s) (7607)
8.30 Brookside. Max protests his innocence but nobody is interested; Jacqui and Rachel are incensed when David invites himself to their party; and Kylie comes home from Thailand (Teletext) (s) (9442)
9.00 CHOICE **Without Walls: A Brief History of Slang** (Teletext) (s) (9132)



Cops Soul and Glaser (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Without Walls: C4PD — Starsky and Hutch** (Teletext) (s) (48713)
10.00 CHOICE **And the Beat Goes On** (Teletext) (s) (1201626)
11.05 Big Mouth. Tony Parsons with a challenging mixture of music and discussion. With Miranda Sawyer reviewing the week's new records (s) (849442)
12.10am Nurses. Black comedy series set in a Miami hospital (Teletext) (s) (2927553)
1.35 FILM: Gentleman's Agreement (1947, b/w). Elia Kazan's Oscar-winning indictment of American anti-Semitism, starring Gregory Peck as a magazine writer who poses as a Jew and encounters bitter prejudice (67935486)
3.50 Writing on the Line. Gwyn A. Williams looks at the life and death of the Czech writer, patriot and one-time mistress of Kafka, Milena Jesenska (played by Michele Wade) (r) (7391282). Ends at 4.45

SATELLITE AND CABLE

For more comprehensive stings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

KY ONE

30am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (39959) 30 Press Your Luck (5700626) **8.50** Love nnection (4845713) **9.20** Court TV 0187751) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show 556084) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6812794) .10 Sally Jossy Raphael (2657065) **12.00** echy (67862) **1.00pm** Hotel (76510) **2.00** aralda (54997) **3.00** Court TV (9084) **3.30** e Oprah Winfrey Show (5618572) **4.15** idun (75900651) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next neration (4256) **6.00** The Simpsons 355) **6.30** Jeopardy! (8607) **7.00** LAPD 365) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7591) **8.00** Jag 3065) **9.00** The X-Files (93201) **10.00** Star k: The Next Generation (11648) **11.00** ltrose Place (704231) **12.00** Late Show h David Letterman (7019183) **12.45am** e Untouchables (4260756) **1.30** Daddy, ases! (381235) **2.00-7.00** Hit Me Long ay (1921973)

KY NEWS

ws on the hour **10.00am** Fashion TV (75881) **10.30** ABC **30am** Fashion TV (75881) **10.30** ABC ghtline (34046) (66588) **1.30pm** CBS hes This Morning (852681) **2.30** Parliament e (4268) **3.15** Parliament Live (4140084) **00** Live at Five (8978) **6.30** Tonight with lam Boulton (6249) **7.30** Sportsline 133) **8.30** Target (7862) **11.30** CBS ening News (40794) (30379) **12.30am** BC World News Tonight (83973) **1.30** ernight Replay (36737) **2.30** Target (87447) **30** Parliament Replay (50617) **4.00** 4.30 BS Evening News (28404) **5.00 5.30-6.00** BC World News Tonight

KY MOVIES

00am **Law and Order** (1953) 1795978) **7.50 That's Entertainment, art 2 (1976)** (94496336) **10.00 Josh and . A . M . (1993)** (82171) **12.00 Six Pack 982)** (28572) **2.00pm Norma Rae 979)** (27268) **4.00 Moment of Truth: To ak Again (1994)** (5268) **6.00 Josh and . A . M . (1993)** (11684) **8.00 The Sand- t (1993)** (19249) **10.00 Betrayal of the me (1992)** (787959) **11.45 Farewell My anculine (1993)** (20623133) **2.25am gh Lonesome (1994)** (808737) **4.00-30 Jack Reed: Badge of Honour**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Big Sky (1952) (8210) **6.00 The Rose Tattoo** (1955) (89046) **8.00 Paradise Alley** (1978) (84591) **10.00 The Exorcist III** (1990) (616997) **11.55 Mommie Dearest** (1981) (20645775) **2.05am-3.45 Lust for a Vampire** (1970) (711737)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Electric Eskimo (1979) (52626) **7.00 4D Special Agents (1981)** (2158775) **8.05 Return to Treasure Island** (91507852) **10.00 Quo Vadis (1951)** (13372539) **12.50pm Pop Pirates (1984)** (67848811) **2.00 Tommy the Toreador (1959)** (18510) **4.00 Return to Treasure Island** (6510) **6.00 Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993)** (60133) **7.30 Special Feature: Balto** (3571) **8.00 Lightning Jack (1994)** (611161) **10.00 Full Eclipse (1993)** (235171) **11.40 Body Snatchers (1993)** (7413361) **1.10am Saigon (1988)** (885468) **2.55 Someone's Watching (1993)** (7593191) **4.30-6.00 Tommy the Toreador (1959)** (98824)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (76990065) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (60955636) **7.00** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (53578268) **7.30** Ducktales (53555775) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (91407607) **8.30** The Adventures in Wonderland (91405978) **9.00** The Best of Walt Disney Presents (70909713) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60935691) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (91419442) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54629776) **11.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (54620404) **12.00** Quack Attack (91400794) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24286978) **1.00** The Adventures in Wonderland (53575539) **1.30** The Sinbad Show (24285249) **2.00** Tollelsons (20177686) **2.30** Stick with Me, Kid (83940510) **3.30** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (88665355) **4.00** Quack Attack (88644862) **4.30** Ducktales (88640046) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (20191268) **5.30** Danger Bay (88646826) **6.00** Tarzan (88661539) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88645591) **7.00** Thunder Alley (20171404) **7.30** FILM Mooncussers (66135055) **9.00-10.00** Entertainment Special (37304775)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling (88626) **9.00** Speedworld (61201) **11.00** Football (20442) **12.00** Car Racing (60084) **1.00pm** Tennis (72317) **3.00** Powerlifting (2681039) **3.55** News (4509046) **4.00** Strength (30268) **5.00** Motorcycling (1220) **6.00** Live Tennis (2645268) **9.00** Eurosport (789713) **9.30** Snooker (61713) **10.00** All Sports (27442) **11.30-12.30am** Pro Wrestling (11065)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sky Sports Centre (58161) **7.30** Racing (28626) **8.00** American Sports Cavalcade (32189) **9.00** Aerobics (15046) **9.30** Rebel TV (52085) **10.00** Max Out (99084) **10.30** Inside the PGA Tour (26030) **11.00** Tartan Extra (14220) **11.30** PFa Awards (30862) **12.30pm** Monday Night Football (44152) **2.30** Cricket: West Indies v New Zealand (8391355) **10.30** Sports Centre (12959) **11.00** Asian Football Show (23539) **12.00** World Wide Rugby (71737) **2.00am-2.30** Sports Centre (78824)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Golden Rugby: Scotland v England 1990 (2195807) **10.30** Golden Gloves with Barry McGuigan (7368978) **11.30** The Golden Age of Motor Racing (2904065) **12.30am-1.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (5058669)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** Chronicles of Revival **6.15** Colin Dye **6.45-7.00** Christian Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5745220) **7.55** As the World Turns (8641152) **8.50** Peyton Place (8691201) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7053220) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6796713)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4081794) **11.30** Trailside (4082423) **12.00** Dive the World (2194978) **12.30pm** Bruce Eats America (9547794) **1.00** Gateway (1686775) **1.30** Around the World (9548065) **2.00** Discover America (8546065) **3.00** Globetrotter (4093268) **3.30** Around the World (7817930) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46876268)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm VJ Day (4072046) **5.00** The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten (4077220) **6.00-7.00** Biography (9556713)



Lancaster and Magnani in *The Rose Tattoo* (Sky Movies Gold, 6pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm The Invisible Man (3372626) **7.55** FILM Back to the Future II Starring Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd (54342713) **10.00** Close (4142510) **1.00am** The Invisible Man (7327621) **2.00-4.00** FILM Back to the Future II (2561621)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7971317) **9.30** Grow Your Own (2407959) **10.00** Two's Company (3524881) **10.30** Our House (7960201) **11.00** Room Service (2527046) **11.30** Running Repairs (2528775) **12.00** Julia Child (7684881) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2401775) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (9801666) **1.30** Furniture to Go (2400046) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4310581) **2.30** Stars and Gardens (6622442) **3.00** Two's Country (4330626) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6601959)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (67511431) **7.30** Neighbours (3701828) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (79831521) **8.30** EastEnders (7982423) **9.00** The Bill (7973775) **9.30** The Sullivans (2409317) **10.00** Howards' Way (1806292) **11.00** Bullseye (2529404) **11.30** Odd One Out (2301591) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (38199979) **12.30** Neighbours (24031331) **1.00** EastEnders (3951152) **1.35** Sykes (17569997) **2.15** Robin's Nest (14864231) **2.50** The Detectives (7083930) **3.30** The Bill (6603317) **4.00** Casualty (16626442) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3972607) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (12359959) **6.25** EastEnders (6152572) **7.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (9785930) **8.00** Bullseye (4332713) **8.30** The Detectives (4311220) **9.00** The Sweeney (97144421) **10.00** The Bill (1211336) **10.35** Classic Sport (8295733) **11.35** Miami Vice (3177930) **12.35am** FILM The House of Seven Corpses (66015824) **2.05-3.00** Shopping at Night (4429060)

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (83268) **6.30** Pugwall (41572) **7.00** Ready or Not (80959) **7.30** California Dreams (92794) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (52591) **8.30** Baby Foties (4772355) **9.45** Dinobabies (47518621) **9.05** Victor and Maria (5154713) **9.20** Rose and Jim (5126930) **9.40** Bump the Elephant (80770851) **9.50** The Clangers (8073249) **10.00** Tiny and Crew (54006361) **10.20** The Adventures of Spot (87618811) **10.30** Gran (87523551) **10.40** 10 + 2 (94831071) **11.00** Sesame Street (59882) **12.00** Barney and Friends (1741220) **12.35pm** Victor and Maria (39979442) **12.50** Rose and Jim (3158794) **1.10** Bump the Elephant (37903794) **1.20** Teddy Trucks (34418862) **1.35** Tiny and Crew (38040881) **1.50** The Adventures of Spot (28077775) **2.00** Gran (16822084) **2.10** 10 + 2 (93165423) **2.30** Animal Show (4626) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (9268) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (9171) **4.00** California Dreams (5978) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (4862)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (42103171) **6.15** Blue (3863171) **6.45** Toucan Tex (85833361) **7.00** Batfink (91837971) **7.05** Grimmy (45294041) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (3747521) **8.15** Aaahl Real Monsters (4963931) **8.30** Rocko (22335681) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (13588) **9.30** Playhouse (50807) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (131521) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (222268) **12.00** Magic School Bus (26152) **12.30pm** Grimmy (54423) **1.00** Global Guts (60464) **1.30** Visionaries (53794) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (98355) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (3442) **3.30** Turtles (2201) **4.00** The Ferals (1338) **4.30** Rugrats/Doug (8020) **5.00** Sister Sister (2959) **5.30** Mission Top Secret (1572) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (1713) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (2065)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6613794) **4.30** Charlie Brave (6819978) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4334171) **5.30** Terra X (6693930) **6.00** Voyager (6623171) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1217012) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (6810607) **8.00** How They Built the Channel Tunnel (9782220) **9.00** Secret Weapons (2530510) **9.30** Fields of Armour (3421539) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9715171) **11.00-12.00** Deep Probe Expeditions (2256733)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM. Pumping Iron (30707941 **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (2497572) **2.00** The Wild Wild West (3529336) **3.00** Danger Man (2526317) **4.00** FILM: Nickelodeon (2271220) **6.30** The Persuaders (3312845) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6607133) **8.00** Billionaire Boys Club (97960461) **9.00** Alien Nation (97095510) **10.00-12.00** FILM Wizards of the Demon Sword (2525688)

PARAMOUNT

7.00am Beauty and the Beast (64713) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (4171) **8.30** Wings (6238) **9.00** Soap (32626) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (41959) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (27881) **10.30** Bosom Buddies (76571) **11.00** Pigsty (37171) **11.30** Sledgehammer: Spoof police action series (24539) **12.30pm** The Odd Couple (36088) **1.00** Wings (32447) **1.30** Soap (72553) **2.00** Laverne and Shirley (76466) **2.30** Entertainment Tonight (55973) **3.00** Bosom Buddies (45911) **3.30-4.00** Pigsty (78553)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (91064231) **7.00** Kilroy (1608881) **8.00** Esther (80963561) **8.30** Ornamental Kitchen Garden (8095626) **9.00** The Reluctant Cook (9555862) **9.35** Kate and Allie (5526336) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (61593361) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8733065) **11.55** Brookside (64878821) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (74045261) **1.25** Crossroads (78036071) **2.00** Agony Hour (51138821) **3.00** Live at Three (45576071) **4.00** Infatuation UK (49205721) **4.30** Crossroads (70360381) **5.05** Lingo (93963862) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (49403381) **6.00** Bewitched (49472491) **6.30** Brookside (65895391) **7.05** Masterchef 92 (90505911) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (40198811) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (12643171) **9.00** FILM: Film: Betrayal of Silence (61899171) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (12920841) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (18935311)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (4713) **6.30** Night Hood (389775) **5.55** Batman (939046) **6.30** Catchphrase (6807) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (1249) **7.30** My Two Dads (55911) **8.00** Mystery Movie. Hard Travelling (97065) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (76572) **11.00** Sirens (93607) **12.00** Night Hood (12611) **12.30am** Mighty Jungle (72805) **1.00** Batman (61973) **1.30** GP (25669) **2.00** The Black Stallion (12292) **2.30** Almost Skies (83319) **3.00** GP (81737) **3.30** The Black Stallion (22689) **4.00** African Skies (33814) **4.30-5.00** Ocean Odyssey (82486)

MTV

7.30am Long Form (94152) **8.00** Morning Mix (535794) **11.00** Hit List UK (70572) **12.00** Greatest Hits (62882

'England need younger man'

Illingworth to stand down as team manager

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

RAYMOND Illingworth, the butt of widespread indignation over the decline of England's cricket, revealed yesterday that he was standing down as team manager but that the source, style and volume of personal attacks upon him had, paradoxically, fortified him to continue as chairman of selectors.

After a sour, confusing week that has further belittled the image of the English game, Illingworth has pre-empted discussion of his management role at the executive meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board today by informing Dennis Silk, the chairman of the board, that he does not wish to continue. "We need to bring in a younger man as manager and I have made my own recommendation. It is up to them now," Illingworth said.

While a decision will be made today between David Lloyd, John Emburey and Phil Neale, in that descending order of likelihood, Illingworth is responding to the critics who believe he should lose both positions. He admits to having considered resignation but is now intent on completing the extra one-year term as chairman, farcically forfeited to him last Friday when David Graveney was obliged to withdraw his rival candidature under the instructions of his main employer, the Cricketers' Association.

"It's not been a pleasant week," Illingworth said. "A lot of knives have been stuck in my back and although I've found out where they came from, that too has upset me. Some were from too close to home, even from within our winter tour party, and I find that very disappointing.

"I could have walked away from it all, because it was getting to my wife and family as well as to me, but I've been stung, so my reaction is to carry on. I am that sort of stubborn bloke. When people do things like this to me, it gets my back up."

The source of the campaign to overthrow Illingworth has been the Warwickshire club, whose chairman, M. J. K. Smith, circulated a letter to every other county detailing the perceived shortcomings of the chairman. "I have seen a copy of the letter and I take issue with a lot of its points," Illingworth said. "But it is the fact that it goes behind my back that annoys me most."



Illingworth: criticism

Illingworth declined to name those members of the winter touring party who have also been agitating for his removal, other than to confirm that at least one player was involved. "Why do these people not come to me and tell me what they think I am doing wrong, rather than acting as they have? I have always been a straightforward man who says what he thinks, and this sort of thing is very hurtful.

"I heard Kevin Keegan speaking after Newcastle were beaten on Saturday. He said that he can take criticism but that it was time some of his players held up their hands too. I feel the same way. I have been let down by certain players who have not performed and it will not matter who is chairman or manager if that continues to be the case."

Illingworth claims that there has been an over-reaction since the World Cup and, to some degree, he is right. "Our Test cricket has not been bad during the past 12 months. There were no grumbles last summer when they were filling the Test grounds on the fifth days," he points out. "It is our one-day cricket that has been poor and perhaps it is time we devoted more attention to it.

"I have always supported our board's position on the primacy of Test cricket. But we have not adapted sufficiently to the altered rules and conditions of the overs game."

He refused, however, to accept that his own methods had been exposed as obsolete. "I have a fertile mind. I would still play the modern one-day game as well as anyone."

No matter who becomes manager, Illingworth feels he must remain close to the England team. "I am a dressing-room type," he explains, "and I hope the new manager will always want to talk to me." He wants the appointed manager to become a selector but foresees great difficulties if Graveney is re-elected too. "It would be an embarrassment for both of us," he said.

The clarification of the chairmanship and of Illingworth's reduced responsibilities at least permits the executive committee to make an appointment today and if Lloyd, of Lancashire, is their man, it will probably have a sizeable benefit, persuading Michael Atherton that he should remain as captain.

Atherton, deflated by the World Cup experience, has been considering his future in the past fortnight, prior to leaving on Lancashire's pre-season tour. Illingworth spoke to him last week and related: "He is still thinking about his position." The promotion of Lloyd, friend and confidant as well as a suitably innovative coach, should insure against the loss of one of England's few prime assets.



Colin Jackson and Melanie Neef at the launch yesterday of Golden Wonder's sponsorship of the Great Britain athletics team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Jackson hinted that he would end his boycott of meetings organised by the British Athletic Federation

Modahl verdict poses vital questions

John Goodbody on a decision which has produced more problems than solutions for sport's drug-testing policies

THE reliability of sport's drug-testing programme has been seriously damaged by the case of Diane Modahl, who was yesterday exonerated of taking a performance-enhancing drug.

The 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion has struggled for nearly two years to persuade the athletics authorities of her innocence. It has cost her more than £200,000 in legal and scientific fees and she has filed a writ for compensation of £480,000 from the British Athletic Federation (BAF). However, in clearing Modahl, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has raised more problems than it has solved.

Modahl's advisers argued that the urine sample that she provided on June 18, 1994 had become degraded because it had been left unrefrigerated for 40 hours at the stadium in Lisbon, where she had been competing. This caused the bacteriological action which resulted in an increase in the amounts of testosterone, the male hormone, in her urine.

It was clear that when Modahl's urine specimen was re-analysed, in front of independent experts, for the B sample on August 30, 1994 that it had become degraded. The question was whether this degradation had caused the freak reading.

Several of the other laboratories accredited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), such as Montreal and at King's College, London University, would not have continued with the analysis because of its degradation.

However, what is curious is that none of the other seven samples in the same batch, all from different athletes, had become sufficiently contaminated to show this adverse finding. They had been stored, unrefrigerated, in the same place as the specimen of Modahl.

What is even more curious is that this phenomenon has not been observed previously. Many urine samples are kept unrefrigerated in transit to the laboratory and a total of nearly 100,000 samples are examined each year by the 18 IOC-accredited laboratories.

Even more worrying is that it might have occurred before, and that some other competitors may have had to serve suspensions when they were not guilty of a doping offence.

The case of Modahl would have been more satisfactorily, and quickly, concluded, if the Lisbon laboratory had conducted an additional, different, analysis to clarify the doubts. For the IAAF, this third test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

It was the Lisbon laboratory's refusal to conduct the test that extended the agony of Modahl and the frustration of the IAAF, which saw the end of its reliance on the infallibility of the testing procedure.

It is also believed that not enough of the original urine sample remained for the Lisbon laboratory to have carried out the test, which might have settled the innocence of the athlete.

Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF general secretary, said yesterday: "Until now we sort of blindly followed the message from these laboratories. The message from this case is that this should not be so. There should be double or triple checks."

Modahl cleared, page 1

FA charges Grimsby manager

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LAW, the Grimsby Town manager, has finally been charged with misconduct by the Football Association, six weeks after an alleged dressing-room incident at Luton that left the club's Italian player, Ivano Bonetti, nursing a fractured jaw.

"We have been in lengthy correspondence with the club, the player and his legal adviser over the events which followed that game," an FA spokesman, Steve Double, said yesterday. "As a result of statements we have received, there is a clear case to answer." Laws now has 14 days to decide whether to request a personal hearing before a disciplinary commission.

The England coach, Terry Venables, has warned that he will demand the release of all his players on the weekend of April 20-21, to prepare for the match against Croatia on April 24. Several clubs are thought to be eyeing the free weekend to ease their fixture congestion. But Venables insists it is time for everyone to start supporting England with the European championship drawing near.

"I have been at a Premier League club and I understand the fixture problems. But we're talking about a massive tournament for our country and what it can do for us," Venables said. A spokesman for the Premier League said: "As far as we are concerned, every fixture has now been finalised until the end of the season. We would look very unfavourably on any attempt to rearrange fixtures."

Although Phil Babb is among six players to have withdrawn from the Ireland squad for the game with Russia tomorrow, Mick McCarthy, the republic's new manager, intends to experiment with three central defenders, one of whom will be Paul McGrath, who after his dominant display in the Coca-Cola Cup final, is talking of extending his career for another season. His Aston Villa colleague, Steve Staunton, normally a full back or midfield player for Ireland, may be used as a centre back.

McCarthy is considering giving a first cap to goalkeeper Shay Given, who has been beaten in only three of the 14 games he has played for Sunderland since joining on loan from Blackburn Rovers.

Ally McCoist, of Rangers, will be captain of Scotland when he makes his fiftieth international appearance against Australia at Hampden Park tomorrow.

Pierluigi Pairetto, of Italy, will referee the European championship match between England and Scotland at Wembley on June 15.

Forces of Evil face television ban

BY DAVID MADDOCK

NIKE, the sportswear manufacturers, always seemed to be pushing it a little when they portrayed Eric Cantona, in their latest advertising campaign, as representing the ultimate force of goodness in the fight against football evil. The television advert, which was screened for the first time in England yesterday, could now be banned.

Not because of the Cantona connection, of course, although that could raise eyebrows. It is the content of the commercial which has caused offence. The 60-second offering, screened first on Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*, pitches Cantona and various other players in action against an "evil" XI. The film is entitled Evil.

There are scenes of snarling supporters baying for blood and hurling raw meat onto the pitch, attacks on players, and a fearsome representation of the devil, wings and all, who is depicted as a goalkeeper.

It is the suggestion of crowd violence which is likely to cause problems in this country, given the imminence of the European championship. The Independent Television Commission (ITC) has not yet viewed a copy of the film, but the signs are not good for Nike. A screening for the complaints authority is likely today, and a ban could follow. Even presenters on *The Big Breakfast* were dubious. "I don't think the advert should be shown to children," Zoe Ball, who fronts the show, said.

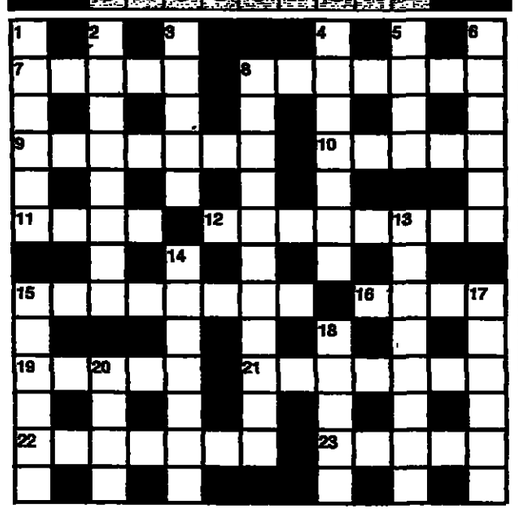
Nike remained in upbeat mood yesterday, understandably given the publicity the simmering controversy has already generated. Tamara McCartney, a company spokeswoman, said that the campaign was a light-hearted attempt to highlight the positive side of football. She neglected to add that the advert had been altered to remove one scene where Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, head-butts an opponent. He is seen instead verbally abusing a blind referee.

"What Nike is trying to get across is that there are negatives in football which can destroy the game, but technical skills, creativity and teamwork can overcome the evil in the game. We are sorry if people take offence, but we believe it is a positive message," McCartney said.

Cantona is described as a super-hero in the fight against ultimate evil. At the end, he blasts a flaming ball through the devil's stomach, thus securing victory for the powers of good.

Stamp of class 7
Diary 18

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 739

ACROSS

7 The end (of Gk. alphabet) (5)
8 Without exception (3,4)
9 A hoax (3-4)
10 Explode: a spurt (5)
11 City found by Schliemann (4)
12 Aura of baffling skill (8)
15 Road cut into cliffside (8)
16 Like bee secretion; angry *(old slang)* (4)
19 Banister post (5)
21 Realm (7)
22 Precarious purchase for feet (7)
23 Concur (5)

DOWN

1 Miscellaneous collection (3,3)
2 Loose dressing-gown (8)
3 Imprecise (5)
4 Complete integrity (7)
5 No. of Eliot quartets, of calling-birds (4)
6 Bubble; show anger (6)
8 William Bonney, outlaw (5,3,3)
13 Dilemma (8)
14 Wet blanket (7)
15 King, couldn't command tides (6)
17 Went on difficult march (6)
18 Antipodean WWI soldier (5)
20 Sharpen (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 738

ACROSS: 3 Tom Thumb 7 Career 8 Foible 9 Motion 10 Live in 11 Deft 13 Debug 15 Bawl 17 All-out 18 Induce 19 Accent 20 Eccles 21 Espalier

DOWN: 1 Galore 2 Depict 3 Trundle 4 Tooling 5 Umbrella 6 Biennial 11 de la Mare 12 Foolscap 13 Diurnal 14 Upriver 15 Bodice 16 Wicker

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Dole pays tribute to mentor Nixon on eve of primary

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN WHAT might seem a puzzling move, Bob Dole firmly identified himself with Richard Nixon while campaigning in California for today's Republican primary.

He made a pilgrimage to Nixon's grave and then delivered an emotional speech in praise of the only American President who was forced to resign in disgrace. Mr Dole saw the visit as a tribute to the man he regarded as a mentor and political role model. The visit revived memories of Mr Dole breaking into sobs as he delivered the eulogy at Nixon's funeral.

Shortly before Nixon died two years ago at the age of 81, he advised Mr Dole to run to the Right in the presidential primaries and then return to the centre in time for the general election against President Clinton — advice that Mr Dole seems likely to follow.

Nixon also assured Mr Dole, who will be 73 in July, that age is not a factor for a politician as long as his health remains good. As if to deflect Pat Buchanan's charges of elitism, Mr Dole took pains to compare his humble beginnings with Nixon's. Both were born into working-class families who struggled through the Depression.

"I got along very well with Mr Nixon," said Mr Dole, during a stop at the Nixon library, birthplace and gravesite in Yorba Linda, outside Los Angeles. "We were good friends in the good times and bad." Mr Dole does, however, reject any connection with Nixonian dirty tricks and Watergate. "I was off that night," he says. He believes that Nixon would have difficulty winning the Republican nomination today because he would be considered too pragmatic and moderate. Mr Dole is nothing if not pragmatic but, for now at least, would rather not be thought of as moderate.

Mr Dole appealed to both Mr Buchanan and Ross Perot to keep out of the general election to avoid siphoning off Republican votes and thereby ensuring Mr Clinton's re-election. He discounted Mr Perot's fledgeling Reform Party, saying that Republicans were already embracing the reforms that the maverick billionaire has in mind.

Mr Dole described Mr Buchanan as "a good Republican", and urged him to close ranks. But yesterday Mr Buchanan threatened an independent run for the White House now that he has lost his battle for the Republican presidential nomination.

The rabble-rousing populist is planning to send letters to 125,000 supporters around the country to solicit their views. Four top aides including Bay Buchanan, his sister and campaign manager, are said to be "four-square behind the idea", and Mr Buchanan has invited other prominent backers to his Virginia home after today's California primary to discuss the plan.

The winner-take-all California primary delivers 163 delegates. Polls put Mr Dole well ahead of Mr Buchanan — by 52 to 18 per cent — but show Mr Dole trailing Mr Clinton there by 58 to 37 per cent.

Mr Dole is expected to win easily in today's two other primaries, in Nevada and Washington state. He has already wrapped up the nomination, with 1,005 delegates, nine more than needed, to Mr Buchanan's 109.

Mr Buchanan relishes the limelight, and it is clearly in his interest to whip up speculation about an independent bid because it puts pressure on Mr Dole to meet his demands for a prime-time convention speech and robustly conservative party platform.

Mr Buchanan has won more than two million votes in the primaries so far, or 20 per cent of the total. He enjoys a passionate following among hardline social conservatives and economically insecure blue-collar workers. Exit polls from last Tuesday's Republican primaries in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois suggested that as an independent he would retain the support of 26, 19 and 14 per cent respectively of those who voted.

Washington: The former US Secretary of State, Edmund Muskie, was in critical condition after a heart attack and a stroke. Mr Muskie, 81, a former Maine senator and Democratic presidential candidate in 1972, suffered the complications during surgery to remove a blood clot from his leg. *(Reuter)*



Hillary Clinton, watched by her daughter Chelsea, hugs Emina Bicakcic, eight, who read a poem she had written when the First Lady arrived at Tuzla airbase yesterday during her eight-day European goodwill tour

Fears grow over Bosnia arms

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON'S plan to provide the Bosnian Government with heavy weapons later this year is causing increasing concern.

Although there is no question of covertly equipping the Bosnian army — it will be done openly and will be monitored by an international arms control team — British military sources admitted yesterday that they were "unhappy" about the prospect of American arms arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Britain and the rest of the European Union have decided against any arms trading with the country while the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor) is still deployed there in its peacekeeping role.

Officially, the EU governments have decided not to oppose the American "equip and train" strategy, although they have relayed to Washington their fears of any arms build-up during Ifor's 12-month deployment, because of the need to maintain Nato's impartial role. Under the Dayton peace agreement, signed by the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, there is supposed to be weapons parity between the former warring factions. This is based on a ratio of two guns or tanks held by the Muslim/Croat Federation to one by the Republic of Srpska.

The first arms control teams, authorised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, have already visited Bosnia and performed random checks. British military sources said the checks, which allowed access to any barracks at short notice, had gone smoothly. When American heavy weapons started arriving, there would be a full exchange of data made available to all sides.

The arms embargo has already been lifted but, under the Dayton agreement, only small arms and training can be provided at this stage. Heavy weapons and ammunition, mines, combat aircraft and military helicopters can be delivered only in about three months' time. Britain is also considering several measures to help the federation with training. Combat training, however, has been ruled out. Foreign Office sources said military assistance would be restricted to such areas as mine clearance and English-language instruction.

Hilary Clinton, the American First Lady, arrived at Tuzla in northern Bosnia yesterday to meet the US troops who are based there. She was greeted by eight-year-old Emina Bicakcic, who read a poem she had written after the Dayton peace accord was signed. Emina and her family lived in a basement during the siege of Sarajevo.

She was among a group of schoolgirls who greeted the first lady and her daughter Chelsea at Tuzla airport. Mother and daughter brought with them letters from American children to their Bosnian counterparts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Whitewater judge jailed for fraud

Washington: A key Whitewater figure who claimed President Clinton pressed him to make an illegal loan was jailed for 28 months for defrauding the US Government and told to repay £1.3 million (Ian Brodie writes). David Hale, a former Little Rock judge, was also put on probation and fined £6,600.

Pope denial

Rome: Vatican officials denied Spanish newspaper reports that the Pope has intestinal cancer and Parkinson's disease, and announced plans for a visit by the pontiff to Tunisia on April 14.

Gay 'weddings'

Los Angeles: More than 100 gay couples marched on San Francisco's City Hall to "marry", exchanging vows amid street celebrations to mark a new law yesterday allowing such ceremonies in future.

Hallyday weds

Paris: Johnny Hallyday, 52, a French rock and film star for three decades, has married in a Paris suburb. His fifth wife is Laetitia Boudou and they married the day after her 21st birthday. *(AFP)*

Turkey fined

Strasbourg: The European Court of Human Rights told Turkey to pay £5,260 each to two Revolutionary Path members who waited eight years between arrest and being given life sentences. *(Reuter)*

Syrians hanged

Damascus: Seven Syrians were hanged in public north of here after being convicted of kidnapping, robbing and murdering a goldsmith, his son and son-in-law, officials said. *(Reuter)*

New $100 note

Washington: The Federal Reserve has released its new $100 note, designed to thwart counterfeiters. The new note will slowly replace the old one in which almost two-thirds of US currency abroad is held. *(AFP)*

High anxiety over tower block debris

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

A HONG Kong council candidate's election campaign came to an abrupt halt when she was knocked unconscious by a piece of Lego that fell from a tower block.

Leung Sukching's misfortune has highlighted a constant problem in a city crammed with high-rise buildings — the danger to passers-by of falling debris, animals and the occasional person. Hardly a week goes by without the *South China Morning Post* reporting a horrendous injury or lucky escape from the overhead menace.

Ms Leung's campaign manager, Chris Wong Singfai, said the police were investigating the incident, but "it was hard to find out where the plastic toy fell from".

Police recorded two years ago that 390 cases of falling objects were investigated, resulting in 169 arrests. The Government has been unable to remedy the menace, due to a shortage of manpower and the habits of the seven million population, some of whom prefer to jettison rubbish from balconies rather than trudge downstairs with dustbins.

"The young people have no education in the more crowded housing estates," complained Joseph Lai, a councillor. "I don't think it is their intention, but for the sake of convenience, they throw out dangerous objects."

A seemingly-innocuous sandwich can turn into a deadly missile when dropped from a height, he said.

The *Morning Post* reported recently that a 69-year-old woman was impaled by a bamboo pole that crashed through a window of a tram. She survived after surgery.

Minorities left out of diplomacy

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LAST year the Foreign Office recruited only one member from an ethnic minority out of more than 2,500 people throughout Britain who applied to become diplomats.

The figure was given in the Foreign Office annual report, published yesterday. It also showed that there was more success last year in getting women to join — of the 21 people taken into the fast stream of the diplomatic service, 12 were women. This is a marked increase on recent years, when only about a third of the intake was female.

The Foreign Office opened 14 new posts last year but spent less on diplomacy than France or Germany. Represented in 188 countries, Britain still has one of the world's largest diplomatic services.

Yeltsin points finger at Nato

BY LEYLA LINTON

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday voiced his concern about Nato war exercises and the alliance's plans to embrace former Warsaw Pact states when he arrived in Norway for a state visit.

He said in Oslo: "We will discuss why Nato is pushing to the East and with what aims." He is also expected to discuss Nato's military manoeuvres in northern Norway.

The Russian leader opposes Nato plans to extend membership to former Soviet bloc countries in Eastern and Central Europe. Mr Yeltsin, who faces elections in June against tough Communist opposition in Gennadi Zyuganov, will use the visit to raise his profile as a world leader. His wife, Naina, who is playing a bigger public role, is accompanying him. Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, are also part of a 200-strong entourage. Although the visit is mainly of symbolic importance for the Russians, environmental issues are high on the Norwegian agenda. Oslo is worried about the danger of contamination from Russian nuclear waste in the Kola Peninsula, 30 miles from their joint border. Bjorn Tore Godal, the Foreign Minister, said the situation in northwest Russia was a "catastrophe".

Leading article, page 19

Astronaut awaits family news on space superhighway



Shannon Lucid: family on Earth has her orders

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A WOMAN astronaut, floating high above Earth in the Russian space station *Mir*, is keeping tabs on her husband and three children via e-mail.

Shannon Lucid, an American scientist who has started a five-month stay on *Mir* under a Russian-American collaboration, has instructed her family to send her daily bulletins from their home in Texas. She wants to be kept up to date with local gossip, with the children's schooling, her husband's social diary and the weather (though she will be able to see from her 245-mile high vantage point if it is cloudy). "I have told them, on pain of dire consequences, that every night I expect them to send an e-mail message," said Ms Lucid, 53, before boarding *Mir* from the space shuttle *Atlantis* at the weekend.

It remains to be seen if the nightly messages reach *Mir*. They will be transmitted via the notorious Moscow telephone system, and Ms Lucid may discover that although the Russians are able to dispatch cosmonauts, they have had more questionable success with their terrestrial communications.

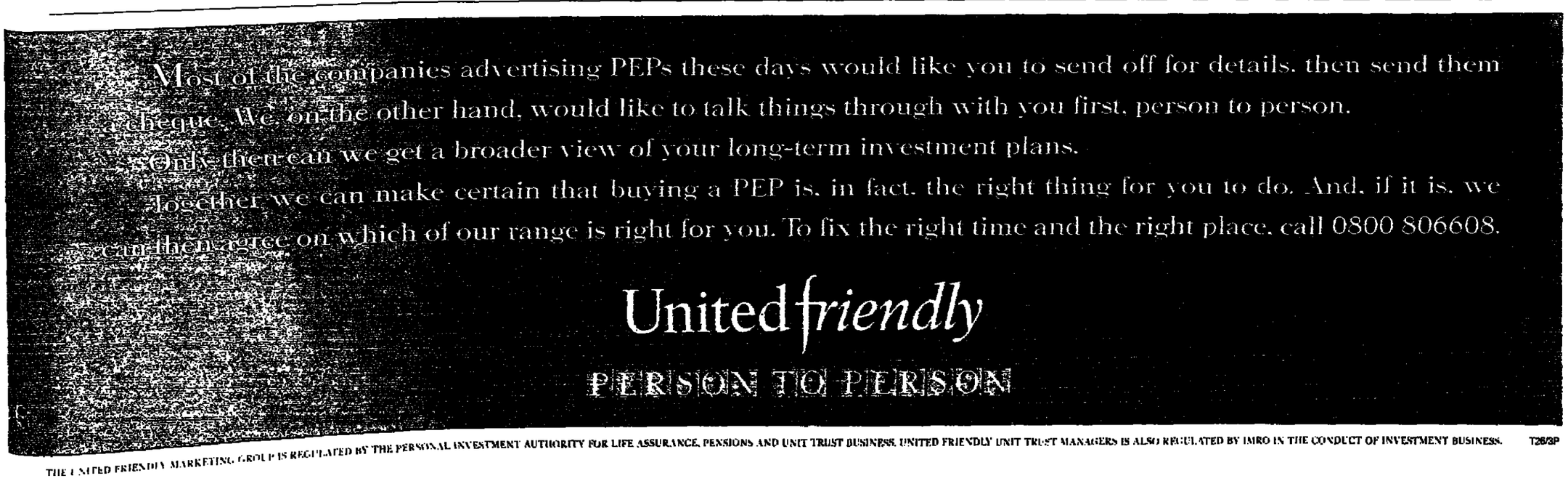
In addition to e-mail, the biochemist will be provided with lighthearted entertainment in the form of television newscasts that will be beamed to her on a regular basis. The National Aeronautical and Space Administration (Nasa) is determined to save her from the fate of an earlier, long-stay astronaut on *Mir*: boredom. Norman Thagard, who spent four months on the space station last year, complained that his mind went stale at weekends, when he was resting from his duties.

During his *Mir* stay, Mr Thagard also lost more than a stone in weight, so disagreeable did he find the Russian food. Nasa has allowed Ms Lucid to select her menus. They include dried beef, dehydrated rice, and custard-style pudding, similar to the rations issued to US troops in Bosnia, though without a hint of Balkan vodka to wash it down. Ms Lucid says she has also developed a taste for canned fish, a speciality of the *Mir* quartermaster.

Ms Lucid's first tasks after *Atlantis* docked with *Mir* were to unpack her belongings and tidy everything away, and also to deal with the rubbish (which will be borne back to Earth by the shuttle). She has chosen to treat with levity a remark from Yuri Glazkov, deputy director of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre near Moscow, who said that he expected the presence of a woman on *Mir* to improve the station's "micro-climate". He said: "We anticipate that the fans will be taken care of in a more timely manner because we know that women love to clean."

Ms Lucid's colleagues for the next 140 days will be Yuri Onufrienko and Yuri Usachev. She is uncertain how they will get on, as her Russian is limited chiefly to technological terms. "I don't think Yuri and Yuri are much interested in sitting around and discussing ways of producing oxygen," she said.





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State land claim fails to tarnish dreams of riches for thousands of Brazilians

GABRIELLA GAMINI



Gold-diggers wait to hear how much access the state-owned mining company will allow them to the huge deposits found in the Amazon

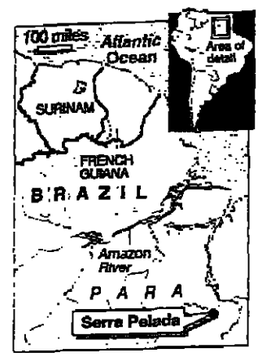
Gold fever spreads in the Amazon

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN VILA DA SERRA PELADA

THOUSANDS of gold diggers, with pick and shovel in hand, are converging on a lush hilly area of the Amazon where Brazil's state-owned mining company says it has discovered what could be the biggest gold deposit yet found in South America.

Driven by dreams of "El Dorado", many have walked for miles to reach the ramshackle village of Vila da Serra Pelada in the northern state of Pará. At least 12,000 men are hoping to try their luck digging up the dark red, rocky ground below the hill of Serra Leste, three miles from the village.

"I had a dream years ago foretelling I would find a lot of gold here. Now I am certain it will come true," said Pedro de Melo, a 58-year-old *garimpeiro*, or gold-digger, who like most abandoned his family in the poor neighbouring state of Maranhao, to come in search of quick wealth in the Amazon. "I am not leaving until I am a rich man," he said.



The 30ft hole he has dug at the start of his search is a sign of his conviction. "Yesterday, I found a few grams, tomorrow I will find more," he said.

He admits he has caught gold fever.

Geologists say that initial tests and excavations by the state mining company Companhia Vale do Rio Doce indicate that at least 150 tonnes of gold, worth £1.63 billion, lie beneath the surface. "There could be up to 900 tonnes of top quality gold down there. That would make it into one of the world's biggest mines," said Roberto Macedo Pinheiro, a geologist working on the site.

News of the discovery has travelled fast, triggering a gold rush similar to that which in the 1980s drew 50,000 *garimpeiros* to excavate 70 tonnes of the precious metal from a huge open mine on land that is now the village of Vale da Serra Pelada.

Armed with shotguns, they invaded land inhabited by indigenous tribes. They built up a Wild West-style settlement where more than 5,000 prostitutes found work and where many residents can be seen stumbling across unpaved roads suffering from the effects of a distilled sugar cane rum, called *cachaca*. The newly found gold reserves are only a few miles from the now exhausted old mine, parts of which have been turned into a polluted lake, clogged with tonnes of mercury used in the extraction of gold. Doctors at the hospital in Serra Pelada said that this year alone they have treated more than 1,000 people suffering from lung infections, facial paralysis and skin problems caused by mercury.

Gold fever produces other problems, too. "People here made lots of money in the 1980s and spent it all on women, cars and drink. They paid hired gunmen to kill their rivals. It was a situation with a tragic end, and the same is likely to happen all over again," said Luis Gonzaga, the owner of the only hotel in Serra Pelada. "All that sudden wealth sent people crazy, senseless. This place was a den of violence and immorality."

This time the *garimpeiros* face another obstacle. In the past the Government allowed free access to the mining area as part of a policy to populate the remote areas of the Amazon Basin. Now the state-owned company plans to extract the bulk of gold with modern machines and says that they have the rights over the land around Serra Leste.

The company will allow limited access, but it is unlikely that individuals will be able to make a fortune. "Their primitive methods using the pick and shovel are outdated. To get at the gold, we have to perforate 400 meters below ground and use the latest technology," a spokesman for the state concern said.

However, this will not stop the flow of *garimpeiros* to the region, and it is estimated that at least 20,000 more will arrive when the first big excavations take place.

Angry gold-diggers are blocking the roads around Serra Pelada to try to stop the company's lorries from moving in with the machinery. "We are not going to allow them to take what is ours. They say its their land and gold. We say its ours," said Mauro da Silva, the self-proclaimed leader of a loosely organised union of *garimpeiros*.

GABRIELLA GAMINI



Digging for riches at the site near Vila da Serra Pelada

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Day two of our week-long guide to help you to check your child's progress through the national curriculum

The Dead of Night

Only the fear kept us awake, the fear that one of us might fall asleep and leave the other to face the night alone.

Write a short story about what happened that night.

You should think about

- **the people in the story**
- **how the story began**
- **what happened next**
- **the ending**



A Special Gift

Things do not have to cost money for us to treasure them. Sometimes the presents we treasure the most are not expensive, but are special for some other reason.



Write a story about a special gift and what happens to the person who receives it. (The person in the story could be you)

Two choices from the English story-writing test. Children have 15 minutes to plan a story based on one of three ideas, which their teacher reads out, then 45 minutes to write it

Relax for a better result

Primary school teachers **Hilary Flaxman** and **Alison Adams** offer advice on how children should be encouraged to approach their English tests

Children will do far better in national curriculum tests if they are relaxed and confident — and parents can play a major role in building that self-assurance.

Simply talking with your children can improve all aspects of their performance in English. Despite concern that the video age means the death of verbal communication, children's viewing can be the basis for wide-ranging conversation in the home about what they have watched, or about the characters in games they play.

If parents have any questions about the tests, they should ask at school. It is important that they know what is going on, because it will add to children's confidence if parents can answer their questions honestly.

It is vital that parents do not panic, or compare their children with others. Your child must feel relaxed if he or she is to do their best.

We have found that it means an awful lot to children that their parents wish them good luck on the morning of their test, and ask them afterwards how it went. If no one takes an interest, they feel let down. They do not want a great fuss to be made — grilling children incessantly about the tests will only make them anxious — yet they do want recognition.

Most children face three tests, lasting a total of two-and-a-quarter hours, to assess their reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Their performance will be graded, with the overwhelming majority reaching between Levels 3 and 5. A typical child is expected to achieve Level 4. Some exceptional children will achieve Level 6, which is an excellent result. Children of lower ability will have their reading, writing and spelling assessed by their teacher.



Taking the test for 11-year-olds at a Hertfordshire school

READING TEST

The first test, on Wednesday, May 15, lasts for an hour. It will be based on texts "linked through a theme" containing separate sections of writing: probably a story, an article, a poem and a book list. Children will be asked to read them, then answer questions about their contents. Marks are not given for spelling, handwriting, punctuation or grammar in the reading test. Instead, examiners are checking that children have understood the question and answered it precisely from the text. Children may look at the text again while they are answering the questions. These will probably be about what happens in the story or the information given, the characters involved and the way language is used. Children will be asked for opinions on the "theme" of the text they have read, to demonstrate that they can use it as a stimulus to thought.

SPELLING AND HANDWRITING TEST

This 15-minute test, also on Wednesday, May 15, may cause anxiety for some children. It has been designed in the form of a short story. The children have a copy of the story in front of them, with gaps left for some missing words (see example above). The teacher reads the story aloud, with the children following their own scripts. The teacher then repeats the story, giving the children time to fill in the gaps.

There is also a short piece, probably between 20 and 30 words in length, for the child to copy. This has been introduced to assess each pupil's handwriting skills. The ascenders (such as b, d and l) and the descenders (such as j, p and q) should be clearly shown, since children sometimes tend to write a capital-looking P, for example, then follow it with a lower-case letter. By 11, children should be developing a joined-up style but each letter should be distinguishable. Large or small writing will not be penalised, provided it is legible.

WRITING TEST

The next day, children will sit an hour-long test to assess their writing skills. They will have to write either a short story or a non-narrative piece, such as a letter or a description of something familiar to them. The choice will be explained to them just before the test. They will have 15 minutes to plan their work and 45 minutes for the test itself.

Children should keep to the style of the option they have chosen. If they are writing a letter, for example, they should remember to sign it.

The first sentence of a story is important, so the child should return to check it if there is time. The story should have a beginning, a middle and an end, showing how the child can set a plot, control the pace, develop characters, use dialogue and interest the reader.

One way to check for spelling, after reading the story through to check for sense, is to read it backwards to focus on individual words.

● *The authors teach at Norwood Primary School, Eastleigh, Hampshire*

TEACHER'S TEXT FOR A SPELLING TEST

The words missing from the children's booklets are those printed in ***bold italics*** in your version.

Time Machine 1 (Levels 1-2)

The professor stood back. He pushed his glasses to the ***top*** of his head and sighed. Months and months of ***hard*** work were now over. The time machine was ***finished!*** All he had to do was to ***try*** out his ***wonderful*** invention. Would it work? What would happen? ***Where*** should he go?

If everything worked according to ***plan*** his time machine would ***take*** him back in time to any year that he chose. The question was ... when?

Slowly, he reached out to touch the gleaming dial. For the first time in months he began to worry. Until now he had been ***much*** too busy working on his invention to think that one ***day*** he would actually have to use it!

The written evidence

In last year's English tests most children opted to write a story rather than a letter, but their use of paragraphs seemed to suffer as a result.

The better letters opened with a paragraph giving a clear statement about its purpose. They were divided into a series of further paragraphs, each covering a particular point. However, one shortfall was that few letters ended effectively.

Assessors added: "In the successful letters there was widespread evidence of confident and consistent use of complex structures, including the passive voice. Use of commas was only evident in the better scripts, and the use of the apostrophe was rare."

Many of the stories had good openings last year but often had weak middle and end sections. Paragraphing was much weaker than in the letters and very long stories often did not score highly because they were rambling.

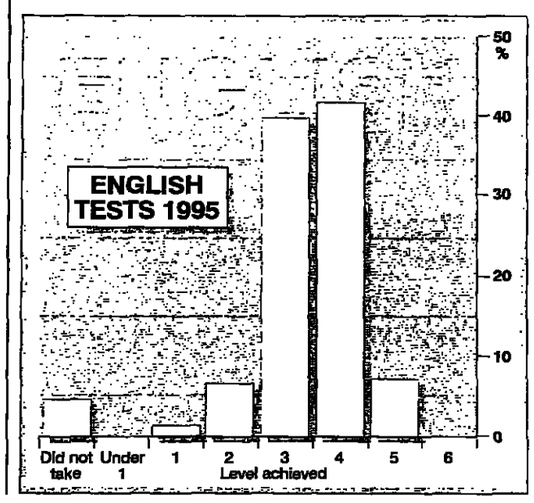
Examiners said: "Most successful stories were written in the first person, and children who started in the third person often lapsed into first person by the end."

Multiple choice questions in the reading tests were generally answered well, but questions about characters proved trickier as children had to read between the lines and give evidence for their answers. Some found it difficult to analyse feelings and referred to what characters did instead.

In the spelling test at Levels 1 and 2, short words were most often spelt correctly, for example, "top" and "old". The hardest words to spell included "finished", "wonderful" and "number". At Levels 3 to 6, children had the most difficulty with "apprehensive" and "occurred".

Handwriting was generally enjoyed by children, but there was one unexpected danger, as assessors pointed out: "Some children continued the story given, rather than copying it out as asked."

DAVID CHARTER



TOMORROW: science for 11-year-olds

THURSDAY: preparing for maths tests

FRIDAY: testing 14-year-olds in the three core subjects

Books that can help

THE full set of questions from last year's national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds, including the examples on this page, are now available in three paperback books sponsored by *The Times*.

Separate books published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office cover English, mathematics and science. Each includes an outline of the assessment process, advice on how to prepare for the tests and an explanation of the marking, as well as sample questions.

The books have been produced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the body responsible for the tests, and are the only ones to contain the actual questions. They are designed to help parents to work with their children in the run-up to next term's exercise marking the end of primary schooling.

The character of the tests has not altered significantly since last year, so the 1995 questions remain the most suitable practice material. Teachers have been notified of a limited number of changes to this year's papers. Many schools will be running their own revision classes, but the three books are designed as self-standing study aids.

Copies are available from mainstream booksellers, as well as HMSO's own retail outlets.

● *The Parents' Guide to National Tests*, published by HMSO, costs £4.95 per subject.



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The healing power of art

Robyn Karney on the London hospital that believes sculpture can help patients to recover

It is the biggest naturally ventilated atrium in the world, its transparent roof covering an area the size of Harrods; light pours in on a geometric symphony of bright white walls, glass panels and sparkling chrome.

To the right of the coffee bar you see Allen Jones's *Acrobat*, a 60ft-high steel sculpture in turquoise and yellow, balancing a huge red ball on his nose — a joyous piece blending harmoniously with its magnificent space.

On the left is Sian Tucker's *Falling Leaves*, a mobile in fairground pastels that enchants the eye as it tumbles the length of five full storeys; take the glass elevator to the top of the building, enjoying a cornucopia of art works as you ride, and appreciate three silk banners designed by Patrick Heron, unfurling to a drop of over 50ft.

A new extension to the Tate Gallery? No. This is the £206 million Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, opened in 1993 and the flagship of the NHS's Art for Health movement that, since 1988, has been encouraging the creation of attractive surroundings.

James Scott, an art-loving orthopaedic surgeon, is convinced that an art-rich environment is conducive to patient wellbeing. Mr Scott says: "So far, it hasn't proved possible to hold controlled clinical trials about the effect of art on ill people. There are too many variables to make scientifically based statistics reliable, although the Americans are trying. But medical staff here, and elsewhere, share my conviction that the arts in the hospital have transformed the atmosphere."

Raising sponsorship is a struggle for Susan Loppert, the arts co-ordinator who attempts to coax those with well-lined pockets in the cause of Art for Health.

"Sceptics can't understand why we spend money on pictures when we need beds. We have to explain that not only has every work of art been privately funded ... but that the money spent on pictures would not have been *available* for beds."

A South African-born art historian who has worked for Sotheby's, she first saw C&W shortly after it opened. Picked from 300 applicants, she works with Mr Scott, who chairs the art selection committee.

The huge acreage of space still to be filled is a curator's dream, but with a £25,000 framing bill annually, this could be a lifetime's work. Ms Loppert has set an annual target of £100,000 as the bare operating minimum.

Hopes for an easier year have been boosted by a nomination for the National Art Collections Fund prize, awarded for "an outstanding contribution to the presentation of the visual arts in the United Kingdom". The shortlisting is an acknowledgement of the C&W's achievements, but the prize (to be awarded tomorrow) carries the more palpable benefit of £15,000.

Hundreds of letters from former patients and their families are evidence that Art for Health at C&W is a "thumping success", say Mr Scott. "I can best describe what we've done here as something that drips into the culture," he says. "I've watched the reaction of patients and the involvement of staff. When people come here, despite the implications of a hospital, they actually find it uplifting, and we've noticed that recuperating patients are more alert to their surroundings, much more responsive than in days of bleak wards, when there wasn't much reason for anyone to open their eyes. All I can say is, *my* patients are getting better quicker."

Raising fertility hopes

PETER NICHOLS



Donna Gordon with her baby Elliot, born last September after a revolutionary fertility treatment

Donna Gordon feared she might not have another child; but her consultant had heard of a new treatment. Amanda Loose **reports**

When Donna Gordon suffered her second miscarriage in 12 months, she began to feel that "maybe it was not *meant* to be", and that she and her second husband should carry on as they were. She had a daughter from her first marriage, now aged 12, but her husband was childless and the couple very much wanted to have a child together. The news that couples must wait for at least two years before being eligible for diagnostic treatment enhanced their grief.

Donna tried for five years to become pregnant, and in November 1993 asked her GP to refer her to a local fertility clinic. In March 1994 she saw a consultant at her local hospital, and had three exploratory operations the following June which revealed that her fallopian tubes were obstructed. An X-ray showed that the tubes were blocked where they joined the uterus. This meant they could not be cleared surgically, as that would have involved cutting away part of Donna's organs as well, and it seemed that in vitro fertilisation (IVF) was the only treatment available.

> 'It is very safe and simple, and takes only a few minutes'

Donna and her husband, who owns a security company, would have done anything to have a baby and were prepared to give up their family holidays to America to be able to afford IVF, which costs on average £2,500.

But Donna's consultant had heard of an innovative treatment called standardised selective salpingography (SSS), which was being offered by Masoud Afnan, a consultant gynaecologist at Birmingham Maternity Hospital, after he had encountered it in the United States four years ago. Very little was known then about this treatment by Donna's doctors, which Mr Afnan describes as "a very safe, simple, quick technique which takes a few minutes to do, and requires no operation".

It is now available on the NHS and is being used increasingly by radiologists and gynaecologists. "Only a few doctors have gone far down the line of using this treatment wholesale, but I predict that within 12 months we will see a big explosion of its use," says Mr Afnan, who has already used SSS to treat 30 women in Britain, with a success rate of one in three.

Tim Hedgley, chairman of the National Fertility Association, Issue, says there are 600,000 infertile couples in the United Kingdom, of which 90,000 cases are due to tubal blockages. Patients such as Donna Gordon would conventionally be referred either to an IVF clinic or for micro-surgery to remove any blockages.

IVF can be both costly and slow; one course of treatment takes ten weeks and there is an average waiting time of two years. Micro-surgery, a laparotomy, involves a week in hospital and a convalescence of six weeks, with a waiting period of up to two years for treatment on the NHS.

But SSS is not effective in every case, only when the fallopian tubes are blocked where they join the uterus. Out of the 90,000 cases of infertility caused by tubal obstructions, 10,000 may be helped by the procedure.

This treatment combines the use of a diagnostic X-ray, a hysterosalpingogram, in which a dye is passed through the uterine cavity into the fallopian tubes to highlight obstructions, with catheterisation. The revolutionary use of tubal catheters enables guide wires and catheters to be passed through the vagina and cervix.

"Because the catheter tip fits snugly into the tubal ostium, dye can be injected under high pressure and any debris in the tube can be cleared," explains Mr Afnan.

SSS is performed while the patient is awake and is a 30-minute procedure, which uses diagnosis as a form of *immediate treatment*. The advantages are clear. SSS is both quicker and cheaper than alternative treatments, involving no anaesthetic or waiting time between diagnosis and treatment.

Donna saw Mr Afnan at the end of October 1994. Although she felt that they would have to resort to IVF, his optimism encouraged her, and she went ahead with the treatment on November 12, at a cost of £500.

She did not need painkillers, feeling only a slightly uncomfortable sensation and being "aware of someone prodding her inside". During the procedure she could see what happened on the X-ray screen, and knew when she saw the dye rush through her fallopian tubes that the treatment had been successful.

On the same day, Donna felt well enough to go shopping and to drive from Birmingham to her grandfather's eightieth birthday party in London. Mr Afnan asked her to visit him in three months, but by the end of December she was "enjoying being pregnant" and suffering from short bouts of "evening sickness". Elliot was born in September last year, and his parents are still ecstatic.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A CLAIM ON YOUR PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE BECAUSE YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT BACK, AND AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS WHEN YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR A NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT AND THEN THE PREMIUM GOES UP, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER CLAIM IN ORDER TO GET YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT AND THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS AND YOU HAVE GOT TO CLAIM, SO YOU LOSE YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT AGAIN AND THEN THE PREMIUM GOES UP, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A CLAIM ON YOUR PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY BECAUSE YOU'LL LOSE YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT, BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS AND YOU HAVE GOT TO CLAIM, SO YOU LOSE YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT AGAIN AND THEN THE PREMIUM GOES UP, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A CLAIM ON YOUR PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY BECAUSE YOU'LL LOSE YOUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT BACK, AND AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS WHEN YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR A NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT AND



An early McDonald's restaurant at San Bernadino, California, photographed in 1955. Soon afterwards "ham" (from Hamburg) got lost, and the more descriptive "beef" crept in

Who invented burgers?

The yellow M of the McDonald's hamburger chain is the most widely recognised symbol in the world, including the cross. But walk under it this week, and you will not walk out with a Big Mac in your hand.

For McDonald's has temporarily ceased production. In the most revolutionary McMarketing tactic since the opening of the first Moscow outlet, it plans to flush out every last fleck of stigmatised British beef from its kitchens.

Burger-peddling begins again on Thursday, but the damage may already be done. The twilight of the Age of the Burger seems to be upon us. And what an age it was.

For some, the hamburger was a symbol of democratic hope from Red Square to Peking. For others, it was a weapon of American imperialism. But whichever side of the bun you buttered, it was always more than a mere sandwich.

Its origins lie in a German sausage named after the city whose burghers first fell for its simple charms. But the concept of a small cake of minced beef is a venerable one — possibly even enjoyed by the Ancient Sumerians, who partook of the flesh of cows as long as 4,500 years ago. But the version that has conquered the world is a phenomenon of the late 19th century.

When the original citizens of Hamburg began their emigration to America in the 1880s, their flat sausage, convenient to package for the journey travelled with them.

In 1889, a Washington newspaper coined the word *hamburger*, and when thousands of them were consumed at the St Louis World's Fair of 1904, the humble snack rocketed to national prominence. It has also been suggested that Henry Ford's production lines gave the burger a boost, with the need for a one-handed meal that workers could eat at their post.



Real 1970s men eat burgers

The emergence of chain restaurants after the First World War established America's favourite meal, but the defining moment in the hamburger's, if not America's, history came in 1940 with the first McDonald's.

At this point, the identity of the hamburger seemed relatively secure. But when the root *ham* became isolated from the rest of the word, the *beefburger* was born — supposedly a synonym for hamburger, but usually an inferior manifestation. Confusion has been rife ever since.

A caller to Radio 4's *Call Nick Ross* recently expressed outrage that Burger King was claiming to use more beef than McDonald's. "They are all deceiving us," she cried. "I always believed that they used 100 per cent ham."

For the cultural role of the hamburger in Britainhas always been nebulous. Its first arrival on these shores, for example, seems to be an undatable event. If the Romans were eating them, then they were certainly using British beef, which was exported in vast quantities to the Continent. But the Britons, and later the Anglo-Saxons, stood fast against this fancy foreign fad, and stuck with their pork and mutton.

Giles Coren **charts the rise and fall of the meat pattie-in-a-bun, from Hamburg to Peking via William the Conqueror**

It was William the Conqueror who paved the way for Ronald McDonald and his marauding hordes. The Norman preference for beef establishing it by the late 13th century as Britain's favourite meat. The means may have been sequestration of land, rather than Happy Meal promotions, but fashion, then as now, went where the money was.

> In 1861 Mrs Beeton gave a recipe for minced collops garnished with toasted bread slices

The word *mincemeat* first appeared in the 17th century, and in 1871 Edward Lear's owl and pussycat were putting the romantic seal on their elopement when they "dined on mince and slices of quince" — what would now be called "quinceburgers".

And in 1861, Mrs Beeton had offered a recipe for "minced collops" even suggesting "garnish with snippets of toasted bread". So the concept should have been deep-rooted enough in British cuisine to cope with the confusions of the American import.

But as recently as 1962, a Mr Justice Stevenson was telling the High Court of the "mystique and art" which went into the preparation of a hamburger. In the case, a London restaurant was banned from using the word hamburger because the representation was fraudulent. The prosecuting barrister fell on rocky ground when he admitted to the judge that he understood ham was not involved in the recipe but had never eaten one himself. "Are you qualified, then, to present the case?" asked the judge.

If barristers and wealthy professionals today are more likely to have eaten hamburgers than their recent ancestors, they are by no means forgiving when it comes to the consumption of burgers in their own backyards. Pukka anti-burger campaigners were distraught when McDonald's beat the luvvies of Hampstead after a ten-year battle,and erected the yellow letter in the suburb of poets and painters.

There is surely no one left in Britain who has not eaten a hamburger from a fast food joint. The speed and simplicity of the meal, not to mention the feeling of gastric regret that comes five minutes later, has made it a symbol of the modern human condition in the West — at least in countries like Britain and America, where food has come to be regarded as a cheap fuel that deserves to have no time or consideration devoted to it.

McDonald's itself has become a consolation prize: full of divorced fathers who can think of nothing better to do with their children on rainy Sunday afternoons, and teenagers with baggy jeans and bad haircuts who can think of nothing better to do, ever.

But even they may now desert it. Harry and Wills were once Big Mac fans, but Zara Phillips is a convert to venison burgers. Indeed 49 per cent of the fast-food market is aged between 16 and 24, the segment most likely to take heed of a scare. And even football fans are not too tough for BSE: at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, Chelsea fans were being assured that the burgers on sale were now "100 per cent pork and chicken". A significant response, which might even have been true.

For all the speediness of McDonald's response — and after all it is on speed that its empire is founded — it could be that customers of the future will be returning to the ways of their pre-Norman forebears.

In a world where the point is just to talk

Stafford Mortimer works among the homeless and the vulnerable

CARS ARE bumper to bumper in city centres and passengers pour off trains and buses as the clock edges towards the start of another working day.

For a dozen people at a Victorian house in St Albans, Hertfordshire, the imminence of the hour signals a different kind of watershed: soon they must go out to wander the streets, coat collars turned up against the wind. Residents at the Open Door night shelter for the homeless must leave by 9am.

Meanwhile, in a converted church elsewhere in the city, community workers are preparing to open the doors of a day centre for people with mental health problems and learning difficulties. The "users" — a suitably neutral term — either live "in the community" (shared houses) or in local authority homes.

> 'I ask when he died; tears fill her eyes but she makes no reply'

A church committee runs the day centre with social services grants, and employs two cheerful, unflappable organisers, Christine and Mary, who are backed by a rota of 25 volunteers. Given a month's sabbatical from *The Times*, I have joined the workers at both these projects, and a youth club.

The rush hour is well past by the time the day-centre users arrive to take their places in the lounge's circle of armchairs. I join them because, in a reversal of my normal experience, the inconsequential chatter that cements a day at the office here becomes the work itself. My job is to help to spin a web of conversation, a net of words in which to capture a user's sense of identity: *I chat, therefore I am.*

There is a range of ages and mental abilities, so responses vary from lively banter to repetitive phrases or silent nods. The hardest sessions are those devoted to the elderly mentally infirm, surviving on the husks of their personalities. Elaine sits outside the circle endlessly cutting out pictures from magazines. A scarlet fingernail taps an advertisement for a garish souvenir plate: "Will you cut round that for me? I like dogs." As I comply she mentions her children and I ask if her husband is alive. No, she says. I ask when he died: her eyes fill with tears but she makes no reply.

Games are another way to stimulate mental responses, and one morning Mary hands round hats from a box. We pretend to be passengers on an express to Scotland and, taking our cue from the hats, we invent characters for ourselves and reasons for heading across the border. I am given a baseball cap labelled "The Boss" and adorned with a brown felt cigar clamped between red felt lips. I feel rather silly but there is no room here for status. We dress up for the game but go spiritually naked into the work, unprotected by a deep desk or a pretentious title.

Keeping alive the flickering flame of personality is an end in itself. For most of the centre's users there is little hope of mental improvement, and certainly no return to full faculties. Our efforts make sense only if people are valued for what they are, however restricted their abilities.

Money for these facilities is a constant worry as community workers struggle on modest salaries and tiny budgets. The day centre's annual income is £6,000 short of its needs. Last year it sold for £8,000 the car used to fetch clients.

My sabbatical over, I go back to work but expect to return. As a volunteer, of course, but who knows — 25 per cent of us experience mental problems at some point in our lives, 20 per cent of over-80s suffer from senile dementia and, according to official figures, 365,000 of us are homeless.

● *All the names have been changed*

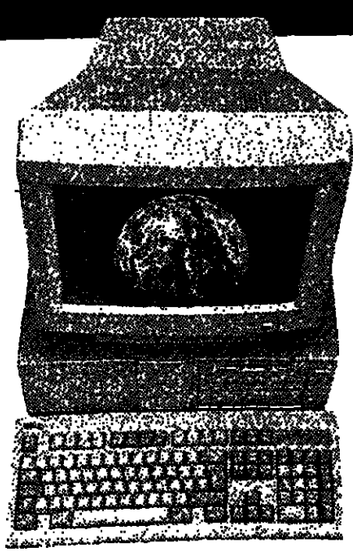
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Why Kohl is not a Bismarck

Roger Boyes calls time on the German Chancellor's vision

Fortune smiles on Helmut Kohl. Europe's great survivor, its dominant personality, has in the critical week of the intergovernmental conference been given support by the German voters. Three crucial regional elections showed important gains for his Christian Democratic Party. European monetary union failed to set the voters on fire.

But it would be wrong to assume that Herr Kohl is now free of all domestic restraints, that he can rumble, full throttle, towards Turin and a federal Europe. Germans are conservative voters — that much is clear from their voting resoundingly against any kind of Social Democrat or Green formation — and they are beginning to have conservative expectations of Europe. A poll published by *Focus* magazine shows that 34 per cent of Germans believe they are not getting good value out of Europe. (The British findings are similar: 44 per cent are dissatisfied.) There are increasing demands for lower German contributions to the European budget, for tighter controls on spending, for less wastage. These matters probably outweigh the federal programme. All opinion sampling shows a strong lack of German interest in or knowledge about European foreign policy and the mechanics of decision-making in Brussels.

> Helmut Kohl has focused too narrowly on Europe

The Chancellor, whose passion for meat has been duly chronicled in a bestselling cook-book, is therefore under pressure to make an issue out of British beef. Ordinary Germans see no reason why they should help to compensate British farmers for the culling of herds. The Germans have been sounding the BSE alarm for more than two years, and consier the British Government to have been stubborn. Diseased cows, rather than weighted voting, are what moves the people. On the other great populist issue, the single currency, Herr Kohl is plainly on the losing side. Germans are still resolutely against abandoning the mark. This is a basic anxiety. The strong mark is modern Germany's answer to the chaos of the pre-war Weimar Republic. No amount of federalist propaganda is going to turn public opinion on this.

Herr Kohl tried at first to trump fear of losing the mark with the greater fear of a continental war. It did not wash. Now he is claiming that to delay monetary union would cost Germany hundreds of thousands of jobs. That has not impressed the president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, who does not see a connection, and believes there is no "economic necessity" for a monetary union. Germans tend to agree.

All of this pushes Herr Kohl into increasingly populist postures, to divert the voters' gaze from monetary union. Germany will become more assertive in the need for a European police force, and the Chancellor can be expected to make stirring speeches about cross-border crime and the East European gangs that steal BMWs. He will press hard on Europe-wide consumer protection.

If this does not exactly smack of Bismarck, it was always an illusion to think of Herr Kohl in those terms. He was, is and will always be a provincial politician who slaps backs, promotes favourites and dispenses favours. These methods have kept him in power for almost 14 years, and for a while they also gave him the air of a statesman.

In the 1980s, he made telephone alliances with socialists such as Mitterrand and González, ate pig's knuckle with Gorbachev and Yeltsin, cracked booming golf club jokes with George Bush. His telephone, rather than the German Army, has put the country back at the forefront of Europe, and for that we should be grateful. But he remains a man of provincial taste and methods; his fabled intuition boils down to good party organisation. Today, these webs of influence have all but collapsed. He has no real friend on the world stage. President Clinton is on the campaign trail; Yeltsin is manifestly unreliable; again and again President Chirac fails to consult his supposed friend across the Rhine.

Helmut Kohl was looking bigger than ever yesterday, red-faced and chuckling in a way that shakes his whole body like a blancmange. But a closer look reveals a vulnerable and isolated man. The federal dream is fading fast. The mood is shifting at home (and not just in the glass towers of the Bundesbank). The problem is largely one of his own making. He has focused too narrowly on Europe and on monetary union, which he views as his destined last task. As a result, he has lost his grasp of economic management, and this oversight threatens to sweep away the European blueprint.

With an unbalanced budget, unemployment racing towards a post-war high of 4.5 million, and trademark companies going bankrupt, Germany is wracked with pessimism. Kohl appears to lack the dynamism needed to overhaul the social welfare system or shake up a hidebound economy.

Instead there is only bluster. His open-ended news conferences, once almost operatic occasions, have become embarrassing. He rambles, loses concentration. Only the sycophantic laughter of the press corps sustains the illusion that he is still on the ball.

Within the Chancellery, Herr Kohl has become more bullying and irascible. He has always been capable of rudeness: a recent biography recalls him telling his right-hand man, Wolfgang Schäuble, who is confined to a wheelchair, to "stay seated". Now, if anything, he has become cruder and more impatient. His aides are exhausted. There is a sense that time is running out for the Chancellor and his vision of a united continent.



Give anoraks a break

Hobbies and amiable clubs are among Britain's glories. They deserve tax help

Libby Purves

The problem with trying to judge situations on their own merits is that sometimes you wake up in the wrong bed. I have not got over the nasty shock of finding myself siding with Peter Lilley against Nigel Hawthorne. But however often I pick it up and shake it, I cannot see why unemployed actors should get the dole and maternity pay while remaining eligible to claim deductions ("wardrobe, hairdressing, taxis") as if they were self-employed.

It just isn't fair. Writers and artists claim Schedule D perks, because if a writer or illustrator doesn't work, the money stops. That familiar fact of life has led to many of us scribbling desperately in a succession of hospital beds, maternity and otherwise; not to mention taking embarrassingly crummy commissions. I fear that (gulp!) the tight-lipped and cheeseparing Mr Lilley is right: if you join an oversubscribed profession, you need a sideline. Plenty of actors know it too, and many fine decorating jobs are done by artistes fresh from a triumphant northern tour as the Winslow Boy's big brother. All the same, their fiery arguments eventually dented my powers of logic so much that if I were the Social Services Secretary I would probably give actors their special break for five years after college and ten years before pensionable age: then they need only spend 25 years in the real world.

Even so, after this unwonted lapse into chilly fiscal conservatism it was a relief to feel the red blood of spendthrift passion coursing back into my veins again: which it did, the very next day, over the matter of pigeon racing.

Customs and Excise have told pigeon clubs that they are not engaged in a sport and therefore do not qualify for the new VAT exemption which has been a windfall for yachtsmen and yogis, karate groups and majorettes, who have claimed back thousands in refunds on past subscriptions and built whole huts with it. It is a significant perk. Moreover, the VAT tribunal added insult to injury by telling the pigeon clubs that they are not sportsmen because the pigeons do all the work. "The activities of the owner", it said, "are purely incidental." (I should be very careful, if I were them: this line of argument could lead to the conclusion that since workers generate profit, the activities of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are "purely incidental" too.)

A Sports Council representative then stuck an oar in by piously saying that VAT exemption should encourage people in "acquiring physical skills and undertaking physical effort" — as if there were no skill in training, feeding and handling birds, and no physical effort in cleaning them out. Let alone climbing up on the loft roof with a handful of corn to get a stroppy one down so you can pop its ring into the time-clock. Bitterly, senior pigeon spokesmen said that it was unfair for Vatmen and Sports Council to recognise yoga ("sitting around in awkward positions"), pool ("drinking immense amounts of beer"), and angling ("They just sit there holding a stick over a bit of water"). They could have added motorsports — a contradiction in terms — and even sailing, which also involves a lot of sitting down.

This newspaper, the heart of which is sometimes to be found in the right place, printed a stirring leader in defence of pigeon-racing on the ground that it is an art going back to the fifth Egyptian dynasty. A good start: but even that relied too much on decrying other activities as mere pastimes to be "lumped with Poohsticks, tiddlywinks or table football".

This is quite the wrong angle of attack. The more pastimes we have the better. For never mind the sweaty values of the Sports Council: any physical danger we may be in is nothing next to the fatty degeneration of the national psyche. We watch too much television, go out too little. A survey in Birmingham has revealed that most people's favourite hobby is "shopping". If this is not a national emergency, I do not know what is.

For there is a great, half-hidden, wonderful culture of pastimes in Britain. It is one of the best things about us, and if it declines God help us. A decade ago, researching a book on Britain at play, I immersed myself in such worlds as pigeon-racing, steam-engine restoration, canal-digging, ballooning, canary-fancying, angling, husky-dog racing with wheeled carts, and Octopush. Octopush? You know, underwater hockey, played on the floor of municipal swimming pools. The big hazard, they tell me, is surfacing breathless to find that your snorkel is stuck into the midriff of a swimmer overhead, and "sucking hopelessly at his great fat gut when what you need is air". I saw such strange sights as the release of a thousand circling pigeons from a lorry at dawn (998 eventually flew the right way, the other two didn't). I watched a flurry of home-made hovercraft, apparently powered by bolted-on dustbins, flinging themselves across a lake like so many jerry-built UFOs.

I was fortunate in my contacts, having one brother who regularly parachuted in a gorilla-suit (with sponsorship from the Milk Marketing Board — they drank a glass of milk with histrionic relish on landing) and another who combined morris dancing with a passion for a terrible thing called a Cossack, a USSR sidecar outfit with a headlight the size of a prize pumpkin and Cyrillic instructions hammered into the fuel-tank. "Designed for crossing Poland without permission," he would say lovingly. "Explains why the Poles keep so cheerful: must be hilarious, watching a Russian trying to start one of these things." Indeed, reading the owners' magazine I found that out of 15 articles, only five dealt with Cossacks which actually moved. The rest were about tappet adjustment and rebuilding carburettors. They had rallies and compared the linkage of their steering-damper knobs.

Meanwhile, the pigeon men discussed ways to put fake eyes on pigeon-wings to deter kestrels, the amateur canal navvies saved up two-and-a-half thousand books of Green Shield Stamps for a new excavator (true!) and the balloonists tossed coins for the role of "Cremation Charlie". This is the person who sits inside the deflated balloon, right up the far end, to hold it down for the first half of inflation while the others direct the first jets of flame into its opening.

My book was the happiest of projects, and gave me a lifelong respect for hobbies: things done not for money nor for any cause (certainly not the craven pursuit of "fitness"), but for their own sake, out of love and fascination. My heart always sinks when people feel they have to justify their amusements as conservation, or a sponsored charity event, or a training module, or part of a fitness programme. It is such a timid, anxious way to live: a denial of fun.

Sadly, it is encouraged by the opinion-forming metropolitan class which derides "anoraks" and "trainspotters". Apart from a few bland universals such as cooking and gardening, and such chic predilections as equestrianism and skiing, it is smart to sneer at hobbies. It is more acceptable to be a passive consumer of culture, visiting galleries and cinemas and buying OK books, than to put on an amateur musical or spend a thousand hours building a working model of a steam roundabout. Perversely, we have more respect for people who bang on about the cultural significance of Madonna than for those who are expert on the genetics of budgerigars. In drama and novels, hobbies are treated as jokes or unhealthy obsessions; a rare exception is Nevil Shute, who accords proper honour, in *Trustee from the Toolroom*, to the dogged perfectionism of his meek hero, who manages to cross half the world and reclaim a child's lost inheritance purely because all over the globe there are subscribers to the "Miniature Mechanic" magazine who have read his column and revere him for his tips on bevelled piston-bearings.

So it does not matter a damn whether pigeon-racing is a sport or not. The very word sport has grown disreputable. Pigeon fanciers deserve their VAT exemption because they are skilled and diligent and devoted to something for its own sake, and because they share their enthusiasm in amiable clubs. The only hope lies in direct appeal to John Major. He always strikes me as a man who, if he were not Prime Minister, would have a little workshop to potter in. He must see, surely, that if you want a Britain at ease with itself you must encourage it to have hobbies? Take the money away from the actors and give it to the anoraks, I say.

Resist the herd instinct

What is this life without risk, asks **Woodrow Wyatt**

There is a burgeoning belief that it is the Government's duty to extend indefinitely our expectation of life and to protect us from risk on the way. An occasional failure of, say, the NHS to prolong a life in unusual circumstances is reported as due to its inefficiency or underfunding. Deaths from new sources of risk are blazoned as avoidable if the Government had acted in time. The conviction that the Government is liable is augmented by Euro-legislation on health and safety regulations. Backed by legal aid, an avalanche of gargantuan claims will soon fall on Whitehall unless we declare an opt-out. Public feeling is quickly roused and fuelled by rapid communications and by the ill-considered instant opinions of politicians, commentators and self-proclaimed experts who are able to get themselves on the air.

According to the Ministry of Transport, there are some 3,650 deaths a year from road accidents in Great Britain. The risk factor is therefore one in about 6,600. Probably it could be halved if the speed limit on motorways were cut to 50 mph and on all other roads to 20 mph. But the Government knows there would be an outcry at such measures. The risk of death from taking contraceptive pills is around one in 50,000, and although the Department of Health has no accurate figures for the numerous deaths caused by wayward effects of vaccinations, no one suggests abolishing either because of the risk.

Banning marginally risky products frequently has unintended consequences. The late Lord Rothschild, in his remarkable lecture "Risk" in 1978, cited the banning of DDT by Sri Lanka in the early 1960s, induced by an emotional book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Sri Lanka endured a virulent epidemic of malaria spread by mosquitoes, which could have been eliminated by DDT.

Aspirins must be in containers which children cannot open. Nor can old people with arthritis, who may suffer agony until help, not always readily available, arrives. The new finding that alcohol can be good for you may have the unintended consequence of creating more alcoholics destined to die of drink — more scope for suing the Government. Flight from risk is a fantasy. There is no refuge from the 18,000 or so annual deaths from influenza. There is no way of preventing the thousands of suicides (though the Government has a "target" for reducing them). A general law against handguns would not deter the one-off killer, who could easily acquire weapons illegally.

Mass panic is quickly communicable. Hence the unnecessary destruction of eggs and hens initiated by Edwina Currie when she started the salmonella scare. Millions were destroyed, even though very few humans were dying from salmonella, or die from it now: yet the living conditions of battery hens have scarcely improved. Shrewd financiers such as Bernard Baruch, Sir James Goldsmith and George Soros make fortunes by selling out when they foresee a herd of investors about to succumb to hysteria leading to a stockmarket crash, and then buying back shares when they are cheap.

It is not proven that any human being has died from "mad cow" disease. But suppose that it could be shown that BSE was responsible for 100 deaths. As it is generally agreed that since 1989 any danger has been eliminated, other than for cattle born before that date, the risk of infection is infinitely less than your chance of winning the National Lottery. The disease may be horrible for the sufferers and their relatives, but the risk is too small to justify the destruction of the cattle industry. The billions required in compensation, and the delay of at least two years in creating a new market, would mean the end of traditional British beef farming, with severe damage to the economy for ten years or more.

Were I an Opposition leader, I would be tempted to urge that the health of the people is paramount, and never mind the economic fallout from destroying cattle, and now perhaps sheep, which would stymie tax cuts attractive to voters. Were I in government, I would do nothing drastic, however popular tough immediate action might be, but wait until clearer scientific evidence becomes available. In his lecture, Lord Rothschild acidly commented: "I do not denigrate politicians or their decisions by saying that, with very few exceptions, they are motivated by considerations of personal power, winning elections and the national good, in that order." As a distinguished scientist, he was "not happy about leaving the treatment of risk to the judgment of politicians".

But scientists may be as inclined as politicians to parade differing pet theories, unless and until contrary evidence emerges. What is needed on such occasions is a cool, commonsense approach to what scientists and "experts" say. Few things turn out as bad or as black-and-white as they seem at first. Meanwhile, I propose to buy fillets of British beef, the best in the world, to put in the deep freeze while they are still cheap.

Sauerkraut?

THE POLITICS of British beef have invaded the football pitch. The Germans, who boast an oversized, offal-scoffing Chancellor, say their football team will be bringing its own beef supplies for the European soccer championships in June.

The team's cook, Fritz Westermann, says he has discovered a Bavarian butcher who can guarantee the quality of his meat and will fly it into Britain throughout the three-week tournament. The squad and its officials will be eating 90lb of meat a day.

"It is not just a matter of the meat, it's sausages as well," Westermann tells me from his kitchen. "And ham, milk, cheese and yoghurt. All the other teams in Euro 96 will be hit by this. We are not going to take any risks — even the Bolognese sauces for our pasta are made from pure beef.

"I know some people laugh at me for being so fussy. But experts knew before about the danger of the beef in Britain. The extent of it, however, has upset my stomach."

As England were preparing for their friendly game against Bulgaria at Wembley tomorrow night, the Football Association was displaying a healthy Dunkirk spirit. Scotch beef is still on the menu for England.

● *Auberon Waugh, the wine-bibbing editor of the* Literary Review, *is bracing himself for a spell in the Tower of London. In the forthcoming issue of his organ he prints a review of* The Housekeeper's Diary: Charles & Di Before the Break-Up, *detailing much of the content of the seedy work, which is banned in Britain.*

Cake stand

EVEN in the gilded lives of the philanthropist Vivien Duffield and her escort, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the sleek chairman of English Heritage, tonight is a big night. It is Mrs Duffield's 50th birthday, and Sir Jocelyn has organised a thrash for her in Greenwich. It will be no sausage-on-sticks affair.

The highlight, I understand, is to be a model cake created by a firm of prop-makers in Hackney. The fake cake is in the shape of the Royal Opera House (of which Mrs Duffield is a director), with the planned modern accretions to the building tacked on. Musical instruments are said to adorn the sides, together with graven images of Mrs Duffield herself.

Mooing on

YESTERDAY'S announcement that the Government will not countenance the slaughter of elderly cattle brought a welcome, if temporary reprieve for the Pamela Anderson of the cow world.

Grantchester Heather 8 is the most valuable cow in the country, having sold for a record £54,000 four years ago. She may be past her prime now, but in her heyday she was the toast of the Royal Show and other bovine beauty parades.

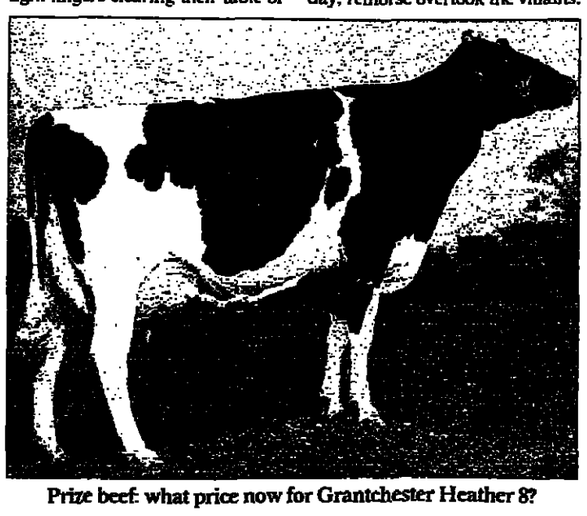
Cleaning out her palatial barn yesterday, her Shropshire owner, Peter Draper, was phlegmatic. "Let's just wait and see what happens," he muttered darkly, before returning to his frenzied work with a pitchfork.

Knife's work

SILVER has been disappearing from the conservative Carlton Club. A recent dinner held there by an Oxford University dining society ended with undergraduate light-fingers clearing their table of salt cellars, cutlery and goblets.

After haring out into St. James's to bray about their coup, the bloods formed a "conga", led by a stubbly Italian of gypsy extraction, which snaked off to Black's nightclub in Soho. There they started to hand out spoons and forks to baffled waitresses, advising them to "sell 'em and buy something lacy".

The waitresses suspected the gifts and handed them back, and as night turned skull-achingly to day, remorse overtook the villains.



Prize beef: what price now for Grantchester Heather 8?

A few days later, a shambling figure rolled into the Carlton and left a brown paper-bag full of silver at the front desk, then scampered like a startled tapir up Piccadilly.

● *The soapbox on which the Prime Minister stood to speak to the nation during the last general election is to be dusted off and brought out again. When John Major met prospective parliamentary candidates on Saturday in Bristol, he let slip during questions and answers that he planned to bring out "many" soapboxes for the forthcoming campaign.*

Trumped

THE PRINCESS OF WALES turns out to share some genes with an earlier Queen of Hearts.

One of her forebears, Elizabeth, daughter of James I, was so-called because of her enchanting manners, radiant visage and beautiful, big eyes. Shopping expeditions in the Strand won her the affection of the common people, as did her love for her husband, Frederick V, King of Bohemia. He was a handsome, athletic chap, but prone to indecisiveness and bouts of depression.

P·H·S

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Science is no substitute for judgment

A risk is a risk but how small is small? The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, presented the House of Commons with a great weight of scientific opinion yesterday but he failed to answer the question on which the future of British beef hangs.

Mr Dorrell defined the danger of contracting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from beef as "likely" to be "extremely small". No activity was free of risk, he said, and children were at no greater risk than adults. He urged consumers to weigh the risk relative to that of other foods. But how "likely" is it that the risk will remain "extremely small"? Is it a thousand to one on, or simply better than evens? And what is an "extremely small" risk? Is it one in a million, one in ten million or less than the chance of scooping the National Lottery? Until there is a clearer lead, many consumers will not buy beef because they fear that when it comes to contracting CJD — it could be them.

Mr Dorrell was at pains to emphasise he was acting in accordance with "the science". He was hoping that those white-coated men, associated with certainty and insulated from error, would calm irrational public concerns. But "science" here is no more than an aggregate of the informed opinions of imperfect seekers after elusive truth. The whole unhappy story of BSE, its discovery, the downplaying of danger, the revision of risk and the changes in regulation, demonstrates how "science" can be as fallible as any human enterprise, farming for example.

The report of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee deals throughout with probability and likelihood rather than proof and evidence. It suggests that the ten new CJD cases are likely to have developed in human beings exposed to BSE but confirms that no definite causal relationship has yet been established. This is not to fault the scientists; they acknowledge explicitly that they cannot come to firm conclusions because they are hampered by lack of data. Rather, the responsibility rests with politicians. They have been found wanting.

Last Wednesday's statement from Mr Dorrell set off a panic. Ministers were left flat-footed. From the first suggestion of an increase in risk the most lurid forecasts were legitimised. Those steps prudently taken since 1989 disappeared under a stampede of speculation. Countries whose record in animal husbandry has not hitherto excited admiration rejoiced in the chance to ban British beef — throughout the world. Their pleasure must have been all the greater with the BSE announcement coming only the day after Britain proclaimed it would embark on a high-minded crusade to improve animal welfare at the Turin inter-governmental conference. A hollow laugh will greet any UK government's attempt to stand up for the beasts of the field now.

On Sunday ministers entertained the prospect of significant slaughter of Britain's cattle stock and hinted that decisions would be made on a surer footing after a weekend's deliberation. Now the cattle cull is off; the only casualty is confidence and, after gathering all its experts together, the Government is no more able to reassure the public than it was last Wednesday.

Calmer heads will probably conclude that eating British beef is not an act of conspicuous gallantry — the risk less than the occasional cigarette or an outing on the nursery slopes — but ministers have hardly acted in a manner designed to reinforce that impression. Even Mr Dorrell's limp endorsement of beef as a school meal was immediately undercut by his suggestion that schools should continue to offer an alternative. Farmers crippled by uncertainty and consumers, anxious for some scale to judge the risk they run when contemplating a roast, have been ill-served. Science is no substitute for judgment and that has been in scarce supply this week.

THE QUEEN IN POLAND

A welcome trip to a nervous nation

The Queen yesterday began a state visit to Poland, one of Britain's staunchest allies in the Second World War, whose bravery has a rightful place in British hearts. For too long, this royal acknowledgement of the country's debt to the Poles who fought alongside British soldiers had to be postponed until Poland could enjoy the human rights it was denied during Communist rule.

The symbolism of every gesture will therefore be of vital importance during the short state visit. The sensitivity was underlined by an unseemly flurry over the omission of Auschwitz from the royal programme. Polish and British officials had to make clear that both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh would pay full homage to the Polish Jews killed by the Nazis; within hours of arrival the Queen was seen talking to Jewish leaders in the centre of Warsaw.

Honouring historic links and the huge contribution to Poles who settled in Britain is relatively easy. Satisfying Poland's expectations of Britain and its West European allies today is more difficult. For Poland has two demands that will be a leitmotif in the speeches and welcomes the Queen will hear: swift entry to the European Union, and the rapid enlargement of Nato to include Poland. The first will be a main theme of the European Union's inter-governmental conference that opens on Friday. The second provoked an outburst from President Yeltsin last week when he met Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and has surfaced again during the Russian leader's current visit to Norway.

The Queen does not broach political issues except by subtle nuance. Poland will not receive from her a definitive answer to its two requests. But its leaders should have already realised that Britain, more than most of its EU partners, champions Poland's cause. Britain wants early Polish entry to the EU, and is ready to make the economic sacrifices, especially in agriculture, that others still balk at, for all their verbal support for a genuine market opening. Polish accession, together with that of Hungary and the Czech Republic — where the Queen will arrive tomorrow — is not only a recognition of that country's rightful place within European culture; it is also the best guarantee at present of Polish security. The same cannot be said for early Nato membership.

The Polish leadership remains to be convinced. It is afraid of the high economic cost — to Polish agriculture, industry and ability to compete — of EU membership, even if a lengthy transition period can be negotiated. The post-Communist leadership of President Kwasniewski, as much as that of Lech Walesa, his more nationalist predecessor, sees Nato as a cheaper and speedier way of calming age-old anxieties about its eastern neighbours. If Russia's Communist-dominated Duma is now demanding the recreation of the old Soviet Union, what is to inhibit future calls for domination again of Eastern Europe?

Britain is loath to rebuff Warsaw and will not agree to a Russian veto. But geography and common sense suggest that to enlarge the alliance in the teeth of deep Russian hostility would be folly. To give security guarantees that were not wholly credible would create less, not more, security for Poland and fellow East European applicants.

THE SHERIFF STRIKES BACK

But Robin Hood is a legend with legs, in foolproof tights

Nottingham is advertising for a new municipal hero. A consortium of businessmen and busybodies called Nottingham First deems that Robin Hood is old-fashioned, and is inviting suggestions for a new identifying symbol for its city.

It is right to deem that Robin Hood is old-fashioned. For his origins are lost in the ballads of the Dark Ages. His practice of robbing the rich to give to the poor is politically incorrect for all parties, especially new Labour. His chaste love for Maid Marian is chauvinist-patriarchal. His enmity to the rich is medieval class war, and his generosity to underdogs is green-collar populist. Even his skill at archery is suspect.

Yet, after eight centuries Robin remains remarkably durable. He is the only demi-mythical hero to last so long without a respectable literary godfather. King Arthur, the upper-class British ideal, has been profiled by dozens from Malory and Tennyson to T. S. Eliot and T. H. White. Robin Hood, Arthur's popular counterpart, has no such bard. His companions, from Little John to Much the miller's son, are lesser stars than Lancelot and Gawain.

However, Robin retains his universal vitality in modern books and films. His anti-establishment attitudes make him a popular hero for Hollywood, from Kevin Costner and Douglas Fairbanks to Mel Brooks and a fox in tights in Walt Disney's schmaltzy cartoon with star voices. Errol Flynn [illegible] of which swashes were buckled and children's Saturday matinée dreams were made. Richard Greene's version was the first popular success for ITV. And its theme song, "Feared by the bad, loved by the good, Robin Hood, Robin Hood, ROBIN HOOD", was even worse than the medieval ballads, though this was a close-sung thing.

Indeed, Nottingham has newer trademarks, from lace to Lady Chatterley dreamt up by the first major English novelist of truly working-class origins. Boots plc has its headquarters there, but toothbrushes and family deodorants are less striking logos than bows and arrows or men in green tights. Center Parcs is certainly the defining place for modern family weekends: but it is not exclusive to Sherwood. Nottingham Forest has a good name as a football team, except when playing against foreign competition. And the Trent rather than the Watford Gap is where the North, demarcated by accent and custom, really starts, just as Nottingham stands at the heart of England, where East Midlands meets West.

But Robin Hood is still a better municipal emblem for it than his successors. Nottingham would be foolish to downsize him and his band of merry men. If it were to be so mad, Yorkshire already has claims on Robin, with his grave, his bow and arrow, Robin Hood's Bay and, not least, the stubborn Yorkshire certainty that it knows best. Nottingham should hang on to Robin Hood for fear of something not half so good.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

BSE and need for new approach to animal husbandry

From Professor Michael A. Crawford

Sir, Oliver Walston ("Swept away on a tide of hysteria", March 23) argues that the blame for the BSE crisis does not lie with government. That cannot be true. The cause of BSE was the naive use of high-protein diets made with animal offal. This was done by the feed manufacturers and allowed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But the blame is not of this Government alone.

After the war the ministry turned the focus of food production from nutritional quality to quantity. The criteria for animal production became weight gain, at low cost and high profitability. The animal-fat content of the nation's diet rose steadily, as did mortality from heart disease.

One might blame the farmers for accepting the principle of cannibalism by feeding ruminant brains and other organs back to ruminants. Knowing that there was scrapie in the sheep population, the risk should have been recognised.

When BSE broke in the mid-Eighties Professor Pierre Budowski, from the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, and I were working at the Zoological Society of London, where there was also an outbreak of BSE among antelope species. Concerned that BSE had, at the start, crossed the alleged species barrier, we published in the scientific journals a valid reason, namely that consistent increments of high-protein diets, and especially the switch from soya to animal protein, had depleted the specialised nutrients needed for the brain.

There is good experimental evidence to show that the brain then becomes susceptible to attack by foreign protein, resulting in severe damage and death, even though not from BSE as such. The brain is normally protected by a "blood-brain barrier". If that barrier leaks, the brain becomes susceptible to attack.

Had the ministry, as we suggested, examined the possibility not only that BSE was due to a protein but also that distorted diet was making the animals susceptible, it might have been possible to protect our herds by correct feeding.

However, the ministry apparently preferred to risk the possibility that its approval of a faulty dietary regime was wrong, as is now abundantly clear.

If herds are slaughtered and the new herds are fed and treated on similar false principles of weight gain disasters will continue. What is now essential is that animals be reared under ecological conditions in which animal health and nutrient value to the consumer are paramount.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD,
36 Regent's Park Road, NW1.
March 25.

From Mr Caspar Bush

Sir, I am a dairy farmer from Somerset writing in despair at the possibility of all cattle over 30 months of age being slaughtered on BSE-affected holdings.

Our herd of 120 cows includes none below 30 months of age. We have had about 30 cases of BSE, one in an animal born in 1989, the remainder in 1987 and 1988-born animals.

By all means let us have a slaughter policy to restore public confidence in the industry, but let us base that policy on removing cattle from the affected year groups. If we slaughter all cattle born before 1990 we would lose, say, 20 to 30 per cent of cattle from affected herds but we could still produce much of the milk the country requires.

Otherwise the compensation we will require cannot be based on the theoretical cost of replacing stock, for there are not enough surplus cattle in Europe to replace the hundreds of thousands we would lose. Our loss of earnings for perhaps three years must be compensated.

And in the absence of at least a third of Britain's milk supply, what would become of our local dairies, feed mills, vets, machinery contractors, hauliers, auctioneers and other input suppliers?

Unless we limit the slaughter to animals born before 1990 I fear terrible hardship in the rural economy of Britain, not so much amongst farmers whose losses can be easily identified and compensated but for tens of thousands who are indirectly employed.

Yours faithfully,
CASPAR BUSH,
Peart Farm,
Norton St Philip, Bath, Avon.
March 25.

From Professor Emeritus S. J. Wyard

Sir, The risk of contracting CJD from the consumption of beef appears at present to be small; but it is an unnecessary risk that people should be able to avoid if they choose to. And yet we read ("The vital questions", March 21) that "material from cattle can find its way into chicken soup, wine sauce, lamb stock cubes and jellies" — and as far as we know into dozens of other apparently innocent foodstuffs.

Surely this risk could be removed immediately. The Government simply has to introduce an order prohibiting the incorporation of material from cattle in any edible product, unless that product is clearly labelled as "containing beef or beef products".

Yours faithfully,
S. J. WYARD,
Dale House, Church Road,
Sevenoaks Weald, Kent.
March 22.

From Mr Andrew Dakyns

Sir, Let us hope your "Poor John Bull" leader (March 23) is over-pessimistic. One ray of hope is that there has never, so we are told, been a case of mad cow disease among animals born and reared on organically run farms.

Today's catastrophe has been brought about by ignoring sound husbandry. If only sensible voices like those of the Prince of Wales, who has given a lead in managing farmland in as natural a manner as possible, had been listened to instead of being made fun of, we might not now be facing the horrendous price we shall all surely have to pay for the folly of contenting ourselves with short-term, cost-cutting dodges.

Yours etc,
ANDREW DAKYNS,
18 Lambridge Wood Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
March 24.

From Lord Carter

Sir, The Government bears a particular and heavy responsibility for the BSE crisis because it ignored pressure from many of us in the 1980s to pay full compensation for BSE infected animals. Only 50 per cent compensation was paid on the grounds that infected animals were worth less. By so doing, the Government effectively provided a perverse incentive against eradication.

Until the Government finally decided to pay full compensation in February 1990, this policy saved the Treasury a paltry £4 million. As we now face what is potentially the worst crisis in British farming since the war, this may turn out to be the most expensive £4 million that any government has ever saved.

Yours truly,
CARTER
(Opposition spokesman on agriculture and rural affairs),
House of Lords.
March 24.

Two minutes for silent memories

From the Secretary General of the Royal British Legion

Sir, The Royal British Legion warmly welcomes Colonel Anthony Lake's letter ("A suitable time for all remembrance", March 20) which makes a very good case for the observance of a two-minute silence at the same time on the same day each year.

Last year, the Legion's call for a nationwide two-minute silence at 11am on Saturday, November 11, observed by half the nation, provided an opportunity for us to pause and remember in whatever way we wished. The Legion was greatly encouraged by this public support. The occasion impinged on the national consciousness in a way that the silence on Remembrance Sunday no longer does, due to the way people spend their leisure time these days shopping, in recreation, or even staying in bed, rather than attending solemn ceremonies.

Pausing to reflect in silence for just two minutes during what until the end of the current millennium will be a weekday is likely to have a meaningful effect. We will be leading the campaign for silence again this year at 11 am on Monday, November 11.

There is clearly no practical problem so far as the broadcast media are concerned, and we shall be seeking their and others' active co-operation. Our research shows that 93 per cent of the public are behind us (96 per cent among the 15-24 age group). We already have pledges of support from many major retailers, public bodies and local authorities, who will encourage people to stop and reflect.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CREASY,
Secretary General,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1.
March 21.

From Mrs June Coleridge

Sir, I agree with Colonel Lake's suggestion. There are fewer and fewer people who can "remember" the two world wars of the 20th century. Would it not be better to move to a thanksgiving theme?

We could have a thanksgiving weekend to coincide with the schools half-term at the end of October, with Friday a public holiday. This would enable the families of the Jewish faith to gather on Friday, Muslims on Saturday and Christians on Sunday: the two world wars affected families of many faiths and nationalities.

I was a wartime Wren and would be sad to see the present ceremonies just fade away. For 50 years our children and now grandchildren have been spared full-scale war and many of them are out there now in the wide world working with nations with whom we fought. They and we have much to be thankful for at the end of this century.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE COLERIDGE,
Ottery, Harwood Road,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
March 20.

From Mr Jonathan Harrison

Sir, Surely the best time must be All Souls' Day (November 2) when we already remember the faithful departed?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN HARRISON,
Castle Farmhouse, Odell, Bedford.
March 21.

The hidden earl

From Mrs Catherine Hesketh

Sir, I think it is very sad that the bust and portrait of my great, great grandfather, the Earl of Iveagh should be effectively removed from public view at Kenwood (Diary, March 25). Not only do I feel it is a somewhat churlish gesture in view of his generosity in giving the house and its contents to the nation, but also that some visitors may have an interest in the benefactor and may like to see a picture of him.

Surely one of the interesting things about Kenwood is that it is the house and collection of a particular man, not a collection got together by a government body or a group of academics, and I do believe it is important not to lose sight of this.

Yours sincerely,
CATHERINE HESKETH,
36 Porchester Terrace, W2.
March 25.

Broken engagement

From the Reverend Malcolm A. Johnson

Sir, Stephen Plunkett's call for Anglican/Methodist unity (letter, March 23) is timely; but may I point out that 25 years ago our engagement to be married was broken by us Anglicans, so it is for us to approach the Methodist Conference in penitence and with plans for reconciliation.

The opposition to Michael Ramsey's plans was led by Graham Leonard, then Bishop of Willesden, and his friends — many of whom have since joined the Roman Catholic Church, where it seems to me their first loyalty always lay. Now can the rest of us seek a rapprochement?

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM A. JOHNSON
(Master),
The Royal Foundation of
Saint Katharine,
2 Butcher Row, E14.
March 23.

Student unions

From Mr Richard Harwood

Sir, The proposal by the National Union of Students and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to ban "extremists" from standing for sabbatical student union office (report, March 18) appears to me to be unlawful.

The Education Act 1994 requires that student unions operate in a fair and democratic manner. Banning candidates because of their political or religious views can only be undemocratic. Nothing in the 1994 Act, which contains the main legislative provisions on student unions, supports a ban. Additionally, the freedom of speech and charities laws which apply to student unions would oppose rather than uphold such a ban.

Whilst well intentioned, the banning of extremist candidates is the wrong approach to student union problems. The NUS ought to concentrate on making student unions more relevant to their members to improve the low turnout in elections.

There are extensive legal powers to ensure that student union officers do not abuse their position. The 1994 Act and the charities laws particularly bear on unfair, discriminatory behaviour and political activity. The vice-chancellors should use these powers effectively.

If they or the NUS consider the powers to be inadequate, they should seek further powers from the Government and Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARWOOD,
1 Serjeants' Inn, EC4.

Popular classics

From Mr S. T. Millson

Sir, Richard Morrison ("Who killed the great dictators?", Arts, March 20; letters, March 23) asserts that classical music appreciation has become the preserve of an "ageing middle-class coterie", and that the symphony orchestra is heading for redundancy in the 21st century.

How strange, therefore, that at last Sunday night's Philharmonia Orchestra performance at the Royal Festival Hall, a capacity audience — from every age group — gave a tremendous ovation to the music of Borodin and Rachmaninov. How strange also that one of the world's most successful arts festivals, the Henry Wood Proms, should attract such a vast following, particularly among younger people.

Perhaps the day of the great composers and their present-day tail-coated exponents is not over after all.

Yours faithfully,
STUART MILLSON,
109 Durham Road,
Shortlands, Bromley, Kent.
March 20.

From Mr Nick Sinclair-Brown

Sir, The assertion that Mahler was unjustly neglected until the 1971 film, *Death in Venice*, may not be so bizarre as your report (also March 20) suggested. A Mahler symposium at the Royal Festival Hall in 1986 provided an opportunity for a comparative study of the hall's own records which revealed a significant increase both in programming and seat demand.

Despite being championed by a number of composers and conductors, the length of Mahler symphonies presented difficulties for both programming and LP recording. Visconti's inspired choice of Mahler to heighten the complex characterisation of the film produced a demand which dissolved these constraints.

Mahler believed that great music challenges rather than entertains. Although it is tragic to see works of supreme creativity exploited as vehicles for mere sentimentality, this does not mean that those who have ears to hear may not take up the challenge.

Yours faithfully,
NICK SINCLAIR-BROWN,
Hughes Hall, Cambridge.

Campaigning issues

From Mrs R. Wilson-MacDonald

Sir, Of course the world should be championing the Marsh Arabs and their culture against the brutal Saddam Hussein (Sir John Curtiss's letter, March 19).

But to say that people in the West are wasting their energies campaigning against ruining the environment, and against cruel sports and the evil, live export of animals is insensitive.

All cruelty is despicable, whatever form it takes and there is plenty of it in the world today. Tyrants take many forms. Let us try to bring them all low and stand up to the bully big or small.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY WILSON-MacDONALD,
Rose Farm, Chobham, Surrey.
March 22.

Yudkin library sale

From Mrs Constance Reed

Sir, The first holder of the chair of nutrition at London University was Benjamin Platt, appointed Professor of Human Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1944, ten years earlier than John Yudkin (report, March 21).

I well recall sitting beside Ben Platt as we drove through the West End of London behind a car with the numberplate NUT 1.

"That should be *my* number", said Platt mildly — only to fall into a state of apoplexy when he recognised at the wheel John Yudkin, who remained quite oblivious of the fist being shaken at him.

Yours faithfully,
C. REED
(Secretary to Professor Platt, 1952-61),
1 Meadow Springs,
Lydiard Millicent,
Swindon, Wiltshire.
March 21.

China's judicial system

From Mrs Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, I object to the hostile view expressed by Bernard Levin ("A mandarin in Peking", March 22) on my recent official visit to China.

My visit was made at the invitation of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China, their equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service, and the formal host was the Municipal People's Procuratorate of Tianjin. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supported the trip, which is part of an ongoing programme of exchange study visits between English and Chinese prosecutors.

The Government remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in China. It deplores all abuses of human rights, and continues to raise these concerns with the authorities. However, one way to help China improve its human rights record is to promote contact and have a dialogue on a wide variety of subjects.

The Chinese National People's Congress recently passed some changes to their criminal justice system which will bring it closer to the English system. They include limitations on police powers of detention, early access to defendants for defence lawyers and a more adversarial court procedure with a greater role for defence lawyers.

These changes have taken some time to draft and are the result of wide consultation, both in China and by Chinese officials with other countries. Clearly there is still great scope for improvement in a number of areas where China's legal system remains a cause for concern but they are a good beginning.

My hope is that an exchange of information about our respective criminal justice systems may help to influence the Chinese Legislative Committee in the formulation of a more open and fair approach to their criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILLS,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
Crown Prosecution Service,
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046

COURT CIRCULAR

BELVEDERE PALACE
WARSAW

March 25: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning for the State Visit to the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the airport by the Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain), Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KG), Mr Witol Sobkow (Minister-Counsellor, Polish Embassy), Mr Milan Jakobec (Minister-Counsellor, Czech Embassy), Dr Brian Smith (Chairman, British Airports Authority) and Mr Roger Cato (Deputy Managing Director, Heathrow Airport).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon arrived in Poland and were received at Warsaw Airport by Mr Rosati (Minister of Foreign Affairs).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to the Presidential Palace and were received by The President the Republic of Poland and Mrs Kwasniewska.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later laid a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness subsequently met citizens of Warsaw in the Old Town Square.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards opened an Anglo-Polish historical exhibition at the Royal Castle and met the Mayor of Warsaw.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a Reception for media representatives in the Ballroom at the Castle.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later laid a Wreath at the Umschlagplatz Memorial and met leaders of the Polish Council for Christians and Jews and other representatives of the Jewish community.

This evening Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a State Banquet given by The President of the Republic of Poland and Mrs Kwasniewska in the Presidential Palace.

The following are in attendance: The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mrs Rifkind, His Excellency Mr Michael Llewellyn Smith (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Poland) and Mrs Llewellyn Smith, the Duchess of Grafton, Lady Dugdale, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, Major General Sir Simon Cooper, Mr Robin Janvrin, Mr Charles Anson, Surgeon Captain David Swain RN, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Lieutenant Commander Toby Williamson RN, Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis and Mr William Ehrman.

Lady Dugdale has succeeded Mrs Robert de Pass as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 25: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Mulberry Design Company Limited, Chilcompton and Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Sir John Wills, Bt).

Her Royal Highness Visitor, Dorothy House Foundation Macmillan Service, later visited Winsley House, Bradford-on-Avon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 25: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Oxford and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner).

His Royal Highness this morning opened the Oxford Centre for Innovation and presented his 1996 awards for innovation.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Linacre College, toured the new Abrahams Building and met College members.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Dinner for the Amber Trust held at the Café Royal, London, W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 25: The Duke of Kent was this afternoon received by His Excellency Benjamin Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a reception for the Mkomazi Ecological Research Programme, at the Sheraton Dar es Salaam Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Wollaston, philosopher, Coton, near Stafford, 1659; Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count von Rumford, physicist and co-founder of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Woburn, Massachusetts, 1753; David Alfred Thomas, 1st Viscount Rhondda, statesman and financier, Ystyborwen, Glamorganshire, 1856; A. E. Housman, poet and scholar, Fockbury, Worcestershire, 1859; Robert Frost, poet, San Francisco, 1874; Sir Gerald du Maurier, actor-manager, London, 1874; Tennessee Williams, dramatist, Columbus, Mississippi, 1911.

DEATHS: John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Boston, 1649; Sir John Vanbrugh, dramatist and architect, London, 1726; Ludwig von Beethoven, composer, Vienna, 1827: Thomas Hancock, pioneer of the rubber industry, Stoke Newington, 1865; Walt Whitman, poet, Camden, New Jersey, 1892; Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of Cape Colony 1890-96, Muizenberg, South Africa, 1902; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, Paris, 1923; David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Prime Minister 1916-22, Ty Newydd, 1945; Raymond Chandler, novelist, La Jolla, California, 1959; Sir Noël Coward, playwright and composer, St Mary, Jamaica, 1973.

The Sabi Game Reserve, the world's first officially designated game reserve, opened in South Africa, 1878.

The first cremation in England took place, Woking, 1886.

Driving tests were introduced, 1934.



GILL ALLEN

Kate Wilcox, of Helicon, and the interactive music encyclopaedia which lets readers hear musical extracts

Encyclopaedia is music to the ears

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COMPREHENSIVE music encyclopaedia which will let the reader hear extracts from symphonies, quartets and operas while reading about them is to be published this summer.

Using the latest CD-Rom technology, 450 "sound-clips" are being created to accompany some of the 11,000 textual entries. The sound-clips are "tasters" of about 30 seconds. When readers alight on an entry about the koto, the Japanese instrument of ancient Chinese origin, they will be able to hear its 13 silk strings producing its characteristic brittle, plucking sound. If they call up Beethoven, they can hear snatches of his music while scanning a long list of entries on him, pictures and a list of his works.

The encyclopaedia is worked by clicking a mouse on a CD-Rom personal computer. The sound, transmitted via a "sound-blaster card", emerges through two loudspeakers attached to the computer.

The encyclopaedia, aimed at the general reader, is based on one of the most respected reference sources, the *Everyman Dictionary of Music*, first published half a century ago and revised and updated in 1988. The interactive version is being produced by Helicon publishing, an Oxford company which publishes Hutchinson's reference books. The CD-Rom costs £49.99 and the hardback book, which spans 788 pages in its updated version, costs £25.

As the sound of music is notoriously difficult to put into words, the potential of interactive technology is enormous. Helicon has been working on the project since 1994. Sheila Dallas, managing editor, said: "It has been a most exciting project to work on. Multimedia is still in its infancy, but a classical music multimedia encyclopaedia is starting from scratch."

In some cases, it was cheaper to commission their own recordings: "The cost of buying in material can sometimes be prohibitive," said Brigid Macleod, sales and marketing director. "For the sound of someone playing a flute, there are companies that can offer it at more commercially attractive rates."

The musical instruments sound-clips include technical variations: for example, the cello entry has four sounds of the cello being played in different ways.

Although a number of publishers are using the CD-Rom technology, Helicon said that this is the first comprehensive encyclopaedia of its kind. There is nothing else on such a scale.

University news

University of Ulster

Contracts

Professor B Norton, £344,158, from CEC — Non-Nuclear Energy, for work on evaluating glazing.

Professor JT McMullan, CEC — Non-Nuclear Energy: £291,357 (advanced cycles — fluids in heat pumps); £255,143 (solid fuel systems); £123,456, (advanced combustion of fuel blends); £78,188 (environmental monitoring); £74,073 (operational problems)

Professor JJ Strain, £191,899, CEC FAIR (effect of copper in food chain)

Professor SJ McClean, £186,832, CEC ESPRIT (statistical aggregates)

Dr FA Schmidt, £106,838, CEC Transport (small-medium sized ports with re-engineered processes)

Professor MTB Fitzpatrick, £62,745, CEC — DGV (possible development of equality strategy and litigation)

Dr A Smith, £60,000, Youth Services (controversial issues and youth workers)

Professor AW Smyth, £44,457, General Consumer Council (cross-border shopping)

Professor TJ Shields, £33,200, Building Research Establishment (enhancement of fire risk assessment).

Charity

Professor DJ Thurnham, £153,000, from The Howard Foundation, for a Research Chair.

Legal appointments

South Eastern Circuit

David Francis Elfer, QC, Michael John Carroll, Jeremy George Connor and Richard Michael Hayward to be appointed circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

Dinners

HM Government

Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host last night at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to bid farewell to Mr Amar Bendjama, former Ambassador of Algeria.

The Pilgrims

Mr Peter Sutherland was the guest of honour and speaker at a Pilgrims dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Robert M. Worcester, chairman, presided. Lord Kingsdown, KG, also spoke. Among others present were:

The Earl and Countess of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Dr R D Say, Lord and Lady Astor of Hever, Lord and Lady Chalfont, Lord Hacking, Lord and Lady Vivian, Sir Michael Palliser, the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Ramsbotham, Sir James and Lady Harvie-Watt, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Sir Hugh and Lady Cubitt, Sir Roy and Lady Denman, Sir Nicholas and Lady Fenn, Sir John and Lady Grenside, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, and Lady Layfield, Sir Geoffrey Leigh, Sir Peter and Lady Marshall, Sir Derek Thomas, Mr and Mrs Peter Barton, Mr and Mrs Timothy Deal, Mr John Fingleton, Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke, Mr and Mrs Richard Sermon, Mr and Mrs Russell Twisk and Mr and Mrs J Watcyn Lewis.

Thorney Island Society

Mr Hugh Petter, of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Thorney Island Society held last night at the Basil Street Hotel. Miss June Stubbs, chairman of the society, presided.

Cardiff Business Club

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Timothy Davies, was present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was Mr Derek Wanless, Group Chief Executive, National Westminster Bank PLC. Mr Denis Larmer, NatWest Cymru Wales, presided.

Lamb Chambers

A dinner was given by Lamb Chambers at Scribes on Thursday, March 21, 1996, to mark the appointment of Judge David Ellis to the South Eastern Circuit Bench. Mr Jonathan Cole presided. The toast to Judge Ellis was proposed by Mr Anthony McNeile.

Latest wills

Sir William Godfrey Agnew, of South Ascot, Berkshire, for over 20 years Clerk of the Privy Council, left estate valued at £1,177,425 net.
He left £1,000 to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

Mr Charles Watson Warrell, of Matlock, Derbyshire, creator of the I-Spy Books, left estate valued at £287,241 net.

Wing Commander Peter Harrison Swan, DSO, DFC and Bar, of Sevenoaks, Kent, member of the wartime Pathfinder Force, left estate valued at £44,163 net.

Daphne Amelia Van Deuren, of Brockley, London, SE4, left estate valued at £264,387 net.
She left her entire estate to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Mr Peter Goodall, of Wetherby, West Yorkshire, former executive chairman, Hepworth Ceramic Holdings, left estate valued at £1,689,749 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr Andrew Beaver, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire..... £737,261
Mrs Marjorie Dorothy Davies, of Meifod, Powys £756,534
Mr Rex Justin Forshaw, of Hoylake, Merseyside..... £854,594
Mr Thomas Peter Parker, of Worcester Park, Surrey... £804,363

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as president, will attend a performance of *The Threepenny Opera* given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith at 7.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the National Equine Forum at the Royal Veterinary College, London University, at 10.10; as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will attend the National Vocational Qualifications conference, 6-8 Marshalsea Road, SE1, at 3.00; and, as Patron of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will attend a 40th anniversary reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00.

Princess Margaret, as Master of the Bench, will attend a dinner with the Treasurer and past Treasurers of Lincoln's Inn at 7.15.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Master of the Constructors' Company's ladies dinner at Mansion House, at 7.15.

Luncheons

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners

The Lord Chancellor was the principal guest at the Chairman's luncheon of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners held yesterday at the House of Commons by courtesy of Mr David Sumberg, MP. Mr Geoffrey Shindler, chairman, society, presided.

Royal Over-Seas League

The High Commissioner for Cameroon and Mrs Mbei were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Roger Lilley, deputy chairman, and members of the central council were the hosts.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce

Mr David McLean, Chairman of the Canadian National Railways, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Langham Hilton. Mr Timothy Battle, president of the chamber, presided. The Deputy High Commissioner for Canadian the Agent General for British Columbia and Lord Marsh were among those present.

Schools news

Benenden School

Scholarship Announcements 1996

Benenden School is pleased to announce the award of the following Scholarships:

Lower School Scholarships:
Natasha Kirby (Trust Academic), The Vale; Maisie Lee (Barbara Findlay Academic), Vinehall School; Miranda Stubbs (Founders' Music), Rose Hill School.

The following internal scholarships were awarded:

Upper School Scholarships:
Elizabeth Allison, Phoebe Allpress, Bryony Bullard, Melanie Campbell, Harriet Dancy, Victoria Dorich, Noelle Ho (Music), Sarah Kirke-Smith, Lucie Lambert, Laura Newton, Sylvia Ng, Li-kun Phng, Nicola Robinson, Alexandra Seddon, Caroline Stripp, Rommaneeya Tingsabadh (Academic/Music), Priyanka Trivedi, Alexandra Tweed, Victoria Watson, Audrey Wong, Minesha Wong (Music).

Technology Scholarship:
Joint award to Saivipa Paipongpibul, Nanasha Pubjoy.

Seniors' Scholarship:
Katherine Josselyn.

Winterfold House School

Winterfold House School (previously 'Penryn School') this year celebrates fifty years at Winterfold. A number of events are planned for the coming year, including the Golden Jubilee Ball and Old Boys Re-union. For details, please contact the School Office, Winterfold House, Chaddesley Corbett, DY10 4PL (tel: 01562 777234).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.E.G. Harper
and Miss J.H. Niven
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Vivian Harper, of Nottingham, and Julie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Niven, of Thorntonhall, Glasgow.

Mr A. Maini
and Miss L.M. Southall
The engagement is announced between Ashwin, son of Professor R.N. Maini and Mrs Marianne Maini, both of London, and Lynne Marina, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.H. Southall, of Cardiff.

Mr P.P. Mullins
and Miss R.F. Williams
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Mullins, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Williams, of Sparsholt, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.A. Paterson
and Dr L.C. Gumpert
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Paterson, of Hunton, Hampshire, and Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Gumpert, of Ringmer, East Sussex.

Mr J.P. Thomas
and Miss K.R. Mackie
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Wing Commander and Mrs J.A. Thomas, of Hilton, Cambridgeshire, and Kirsty, daughter of Dr and Mrs I.J. Mackie, of Sydney.

Mr I.D. Wooster
and Miss S.E. Meadows
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr D.A. Wooster, of Stafford, and Mrs P.A. Cartwright, of Gayton, Staffordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Meadows, of Molesey, Surrey.

Birthdays today

Mr David Amess, MP, 44; Mr Graham Barlow, cricketer, 46; Mr Pierre Boulez, composer and conductor, 71; Lord Chetwode, 59; Miss Kyung-Wha Chung, violinist, 48; Mr Piers Gardner, director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 42; Lord Graham of Edmonton, 71; Mr William Hague, Secretary of State for Wales, 35; Her Honour Jean Graham Hall, 79; Baroness Hayman, 47; Lord Hooson, QC, 71; Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, 75; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 73; Sir George Jefferson, former chairman, British Telecom, 75; Sir Bernard Katz, biophysicist, 85; the Earl of Kinnoull, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 82; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 94; Mr Leonard Nimoy, actor and producer, 65; Mr G. T. Pryce, former chief executive, Dalgety, 62; Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 80; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 52; Mr Amédée Turner, QC, and former MEP, 67; Mr Colin Webb, former general manager, Press Association, 57.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League

Professor Margaret Boden of Sussex University was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

New ambassador

Mr Christopher Crabbie, CMG, has been appointed Ambassador to Bucharest in succession to Mr Andrew Bache, CMG, who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

What is man, that you should remember him, a man, that you should care for him? You made him for a short while subordinate to the angels; with glory and honour you crowned him. Hebrews 2 : 6. 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAKER/GRODZINSKI - At The Portland Hospital on March 18th, to Marion and Sam, a beautiful baby daughter, Ella.

BRODSKY - Scott and Hilary are delighted to announce the safe arrival on 21st March of Jonathan Alexander Louis (Jack), a brother for Sam.

CALDERWOOD - On 19th March, in Tokyo, to Chris and Clare (née Howgill), a son, James Patrick Robertson.

CLANCY - Maxine and Andrew would like to announce the birth of their first child, Finola Niamh, on 23rd March 1996.

D'ARCY - On March 20th, to Susie (née Stonehouse) and William, a daughter, Georgina Isabella Daisy.

FERGUSON - On March 18th, to Jane (née Tucker) and John, a son, James.

GARCIA - On March 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Martine (née O'Brien) and Anthony, a son, Edgar, a brother for Matty.

GEORGIOU - On 17th March 1996 at Edgware General Hospital, to Spiroulla and Andrew, a son, Lucas Andreas.

KASFIKIER - On March 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Claire and Gideon, a beautiful daughter, Amy Rose.

OSWALD - On 23rd March in London, to Arabella and William Oswald, a daughter.

PANAGGIO - On March 19th 1996, to Alice (née Liddell-Grainger) and Pietro, a first son.

PHILLIPS - Richard and Cindy are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Annabelle Sophie Elizabeth on 21st February, a sister for Guy, Edward and Oliver.

POJDL - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Fran and Pavel, a daughter, Sunny Matilda, a sister to Jonas.

SMITH - On March 18th, to Annette and Stephen, a daughter, Sarah.

StCLAIR BAKER - Alison (née Fenn) and Bob of Newnham, Kent, are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Madeline Amy Helena on Thursday 14th March.

BIRTHS

SYNCZYSZYN-SABAN - On 15th March 1996, to John and Anne, a son, Anton Yuri, a brother for Maxim and Zenko.

WILLIAMS - On 18th March 1996, to Samantha (née Connolly) and Richard, a son, Frederick John.

DEATHS

BLACK - Valerie much loved mother and grandmother died peacefully on 19th March. Funeral at 11.30 am on Thursday 28th March, Holy Trinity Brompton, London SW7. Memorial Service later on Isle of Wight. Family flowers only. If wished donations to Joshua Compston Memorial Fund c/o Compston, Holy Trinity Brompton, London.

BORTHWICK - Robert Colin (Bob) on March 21st after a short illness. Service at All Saints Church, Stock, Essex at 11 am on Wednesday, March 27th to be followed by private cremation. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 18 Arcade Chambers, High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AH. Thanksgiving Service in the City to be announced later.

BRAND - Douglas (Bobby) peacefully on March 21st aged 91. Much loved husband of Dais and father of Peter. Funeral at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham on Monday 1st April at 12 noon.

COURTENAY TAYLOR - Duncan on March 19th 1996 in South West France, beloved husband of Diana, and dear father of Christopher and Simon. Funeral to be held on Tuesday April 2nd at Morston Church, North Norfolk at 11.45 am. Family flowers only please. Donations to Glaven District Caring Committee or R.N.L.I. Enquiries to Fox's (01263) 512427. Memorial Service in May at Monteton, South West France.

CROSSLEY - Charles John, peacefully at Sandial Cottage, the loving husband of the late Ann Crossley, died on 22nd March. Cremation at 3 pm on 29th March at Southampton Crematorium. No flowers please. Donations made payable to Cancer Research c/o R. Hallum & Son, 185 Long Lane, Hotbury, Southampton SO45 2PA.

DEATHS

de LACEY - On March 21st 1996 Mathew de Lacey died peacefully aged 96, beloved husband of the late Lilian de Lacey and father to Patricia and Moira. The funeral service will take place on Friday 29th March at 2.30pm at Christ the King Aynesbury. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the R.N.L.I. Isle of Sheppey branch or the St Johns Ambulance Brigade, c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HL (01722-413136).

DEWEY - Monica aged 91 on Friday 22nd March at RUH Bath, beloved wife of the late Theodore and mother of Amanda, Timothy, Caroline and Corinne and the late Terence. Much loved grandmother to sixteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Requiem Mass at St Mary's, Julian Road, Bath on Friday March 29th, at 11 am. Private cremation to follow. Family flowers only.

FARMER - Suddenly but peacefully on 23rd March 1996. Marion in her 90th year, at Eden House in the Isle of Wight and formerly of Beckenham and Kingsdown, Kent. Much loved mother and mother-in-law of David and Johanna. Funeral Service on Thursday 28th March at the I.W. Crematorium at 3.30 pm. All enquiries to R. & P. Everson Funeral Directors. tel: (01983) 755733.

FITZPATRICK - On March 20th, peacefully at the Charing Cross Hospital, Denise Marie aged 80, much loved mother of Shaun and Edward and grandmother to Michael and Edwina. Funeral at noon Monday 1st April at St Mary's Church, Upton Grey, nr. Basingstoke. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Riding for the Disabled may be sent to Spencer and Peyton Funeral Directors, 380 Worting Road, Basingstoke.

FREARSON - Sydney of Ucreston aged 86 on March 16th. March loved by wife Gwen and son Stuart. Funeral 2.45 pm Eastbourne Wednesday 27th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Action for Victims of Medical Accident c/o Messrs Thomas Rich & Sons Funeral Directors, Hailsham, Sussex.

GOLDING - Professor The Hon. Sir John Golding of Kingston, Jamaica, died peacefully on March 23rd. State Funeral Thursday March 28th.

GREEN - On March 24th 1996 after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity Christopher Winston Curtis (Bill)). Wonderful husband to Chris, much loved father to Michael, Annabel, Caroline and Sarah and a loving Bompy to Lucy, Nelly and Elsie. Funeral Service and Thanksgiving on Monday April 1st at St Michael's Church, Framlingham, Suffolk at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to The Jack Prior Unit, Norfolk and Norwich Health Care Trust, Brunswick Road, Norwich NR1 3SR.

GREY of RAUNTON - Esme. On March 22nd peacefully in hospital. A dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother. Cremation private. No flowers please. Memorial Service to be announced later.

HARRIS - Beatrice Rebecca (née Halsted) aged 84, after a remarkably courageous fight against ill-health, peacefully on March 23rd 1996. Adored and loving mother of Elizabeth Salmon, Jane Alvarez and John Harris, wonderful grandmother, mother-in-law and friend. Funeral Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11 today Tuesday 26th March at 4 pm. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to St John's Hospice, Grove End Road, NW8.

LEWIS - Harold Guilford aged 90, husband of Jo (née Broom), father of Sally, grandfather of Emma and Maryaux. On March 18th after a brief illness. Present family address: Le Virage, La Diote, 13105 Mimet, France.

MANNERS - Reverend Richard Manners S.J. on Friday 22nd March 1996 in Plymouth. Son of the late Major Richard Manners, Indian Army and the late Margery O'Callaghan. Requiem Mass at Nazareth House, Durnford Street, Plymouth, at 1.30pm on Thursday 28th March 1996 followed by interment at Budleigh Salterton at 4.30pm.

MORGAN - Dr. John (Hanna). Consultant Dermatologist, died on March 24th, aged 83. Private funeral. Memorial Service to be announced.

MOSS - On March 23rd Dr. Trevor Simeon Moss aged 75 years of Colwall, Malvern. Beloved husband of Audrey. Thanksgiving Service at Colwall Parish Church on Tuesday April 2nd at 2.30 pm. Donations to the British Heart Foundation c/o F.W. Salisbury Funeral Director, Malvern.

MURPHY - Terence Cavanagh on March 23rd 1996 peacefully at Beech House Nursing Home, Wollerton, nr. Market Drayton, Shropshire, aged 88 years. Formerly of Argentina, France and Eastcote. Beloved husband of the late Isabel and father of Victoria Hymans and Brigid Middleton, father-in-law of the two Peters and grandfather of Richard, James, Nicholas and Timothy. Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday April 3rd at 11.20 am. No flowers by request please. Donations if so desired to Rosalee Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Enquiries to T. Tudor & Son Funeral Directors, Market Drayton. tel: (01630) 658221.

NAUEN - On 22nd March 1996, suddenly John Adams. Beloved husband of Noelle and devoted father and grandfather. Toujours comme toujours. Cremation at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Friday 29th March at 3 pm. Family flowers only, but if desired donations to Samaritans of East Surrey.

PAGE - Suddenly on 13th March in Worthing, Charles Stuart, aged 77 years, beloved husband of the late Dorothea, much loved and loving father of Raymond and Jeremy. Father-in-law of Marion, grandpa of Kevin and Danielle, lately of Frobisher Way Worthing. Sadly missed and fondly remembered.

PEARSRAINE - Moyna, Mc died peacefully, if suddenly, 23rd March 1996. "Let's bury her in flowers". Tributes c/o Tressiders, Nantwich, Cheshire. (01270) 626653.

PHILLIPS - On March 18th at St Michael's Hospice, Hereford, Peter John Croft aged 66 years of Trellech, Monmouth. Dearly loved husband of Sue. The funeral has taken place. Memorial Service to be announced later. Donations if so desired for St Michael's Hospice may be sent to Mrs C. Berger, Duffryn House, Cathrogh, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 6NQ. Further enquiries to Phillip Blatchly & Son. Tel: (01594) 529345.

REDMAN - Bunty on March 23rd, peacefully in hospital. Widow of Jack, much loved mother of Simon and Nicky and grandmother of Giles, Alastair and Phillip. A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held at Ellisley Parish Church, Cambridgeshire, on April 2nd at 12.15 pm following a private cremation.

RICHARDSON - Audrey. Died peacefully at Bestaport Nursing Home, St Brelade, Jersey on March 19th 1996. Dearly loved by her family and many friends. The funeral service will take place at St Brelade's Parish Church, Jersey 11 am Friday 29th March. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to The Jersey Lifeboat Guild, PO Box 739, St Helier, Jersey or to Jersey Hospice Care, PO Box 641, No 1 Seaton Place, St Helier, Jersey. Enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Ltd., tel: 01834 33330.

ROSCOE - On 24th March 1996 peacefully Jack Roscoe, beloved husband of Barbara and father of Robert and Elizabeth. Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday March 28th at 12.30 pm. Enquiries to James Crook Funeral Directors, tel: (0171) 624-2288.

TOWNEND - Violet Powell, MBE, aged 89 on March 23rd 1996, peacefully, at Emily Jackson House, Sevenoaks. Daughter of Rev. Douglas Townend, dearly loved aunt of Ann Wright, Douglas and Anthony Townend and Catherine Budgett-Meakin. Long service to ICI and to the Sevenoaks community. Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks at 12 noon on April 2nd 1996, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to the Bible Society, Stone Hill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG.

TRANT - Ian Fitzgibbon of Maesmawr, formerly of Doves, Co. Tipperary, died peacefully in Welshpool Hospital on March 24th aged 80. Husband of Janet, brother of Sybil, father of David, Clare and Rosie. Funeral at Guilsfield Church on April 1st at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Hope House, c/o D. Crowe (01686) 640386.

VACHER - On 23rd March peacefully in the very kind care of the staff at Bramley House, Westcott, Edwin John, much loved husband of Debra and father of Peter and Jenny. Private funeral, please no letters.

VORHAUS - Dr Gwyneth Jan. Died 23rd March at home after a long and valiant battle against cancer. Loved and missed by Alan and her children Kevin and Sharon. For further information contact: A.V. Smith & Sons. (01896) 234011.

WEST - Lieutenant Colonel Norman Laurence West, Military Knight of Windsor, late King's Own Scottish Borderers. On 22nd March after a long illness borne with great courage. Dearly loved husband of Gwen and father of Judy, grandfather of Joanna and Philip. Funeral Service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle at 2.30 pm 2nd April. No flowers but if desired memorial donations to Military Knights of Windsor Charity c/o Governor MKW, Windsor Castle. Those wishing to attend the service contact St George's Chapter Office 01753 868538.

YETTON - Enid May, aged 91, much loved sister and aunt, died peacefully in hospital on 21st March 1996, after a short illness.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

NICHOLS - A Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of John Nichols will be held on Thursday 25th April 1996 at 5 pm at St John's Wood Church, Lord's Roundabout, London NW8 7NE.

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OBITUARIES

RON HAYWARD

Ron Hayward, CBE, General Secretary of the Labour Party, 1972-82, died on March 22 aged 78. He was born on June 27, 1917.



FOR someone who became the Labour Party's General Secretary almost by a fluke — he won the office by the casting vote of the party chairman, Tony Benn — Ron Hayward enjoyed a remarkably high profile throughout his ten-year term of office. This was not always to the liking of his nominal employers on the National Executive Committee, some of whose members from time to time thought they detected in him the makings of a politician *manqué*.

Such suspicions were, if anything, confirmed when at the annual conference following the party's defeat at the general election of 1979 Hayward roundly declared that the election had been lost because of the failure of the Labour Government not merely to carry out conference resolutions and TUC Congress decisions but even to include them in the party's manifesto. Since he had been put up to defend the Callaghan Government's record, his further *ad lib* — "I wish sometimes that our Prime Ministers would act in *our* interests as a Tory Prime Minister acts in *theirs*" — was also not regarded as particularly helpful.

It struck an unfortunate note towards the end of what until then had been, at least in electoral terms, a surprisingly successful period as the party's chief civil servant. When Hayward succeeded Sir Harry Nicholas as General Secretary in March 1972 — seeing off the officially favoured candidate Gwyn Morgan in the process — the omens for the Labour Party hardly looked good.

The split over Europe — one of the factors that had cost the pro-European Morgan the job — was just developing. Roy Jenkins, George Thomson and Harold Lever were to resign from the Shadow Cabinet over the issue of the referendum the following month. Nor, with the Heath Government still riding high, were there enough indications of a recovery in Labour fortunes to make it a realistic contender at the next election. But Hayward, who always claimed to have kept the faith even at the darkest hour, lived to see his confidence vindicated. In March 1974 Harold Wilson moved back into No 10 and six months later converted his minority Government into one enjoying an overall Commons majority, if by the slenderest of margins. Unlike his predecessor, who had lost the only election the party had fought during his time at Transport House, Hayward was thus able to claim that of the three elections he had been directly involved in as General Secretary the party had won all but the last.

A countryman with a distinct Oxfordshire burr, Ronald George Hayward was the son of a smallholder and was educated at the local C of E school and then at a variety of RAF technical colleges. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a cabinet-maker — a training that was to lead to predictably arch jokes later. He served during the war as a technical training instructor in the RAF, reaching senior non-commissioned rank. He started out in the Labour Party agency service in 1945, becoming, first, secretary-agent to the Banbury constituency party (a Tory-held seat) and then, in 1947, agent for Rochester and Chatham (successfully held for Labour by Arthur Bottomley in the February 1950 general election).

His first break came when, later in 1950, he was appointed assistant regional organiser for the Labour Party in the southern region. There were many more Labour seats in that area then than there are now, and Hayward, working as number two to a much older man, soon proved himself an active and energetic official: so much so that, when his colleague retired, he was highly unusually appointed to the top job in the same region.

That this had disadvantages as well as advantages was to emerge later when Hayward grew visibly impatient with tilling the same political soil for nearly twenty years. Fortunately, however, help was at hand. The retirement of Dame Sara Barker from the national agent's job at Transport House left a vacancy at party headquarters which Hayward made no secret of his anxiety to fill. Again, he was not the favourite for the job — most people having expected it to go to the assistant national agent, Reg Underhill. It was a time, though, of upheaval, in No 10-head office relations — Wilson had just failed to get Anthony Greenwood appointed General Secretary — and being the establishment candidate was not necessarily an asset. In any event, Hayward — as the more left-wing contender — was chosen by the NEC and for the next three years the unfortunate Underhill had to work to a man whom he had always previously regarded as his junior. (He was to have the last laugh, however, as he went on to be nominated as a life peer by James Callaghan.)

Hayward's own relations with both Wilson and Callaghan were correct without being especially cordial. He used to refer to Wilson as "the little man" but on March 16, 1976, the then Prime Minister did make a point of informing him of his decision to retire a full hour before he told the Cabinet — much, it has to be said, to Hayward's own subsequent gratification.

If he had a weakness, it was in fact a harmless form of personal vanity — something which, since most politicians suffer from it to a far more virulent degree, made him an awkward colleague for many of them. He was always keen to have his own speaking part, for example, in party political broadcasts, a tendency that was often misunderstood by those who saw them as the exclusive province of elected politicians. Nor, at least in the last years of the Labour Government, did he always enjoy the rights of access to No 10 that he would have liked — the Central Policy Review Staff and James Callaghan's own personal think-tank all too often coming between him and the emperor's ear.

It was on Harold Wilson's nomination that he was appointed CBE in 1970 and some felt it odd that no further honour came to him on his retirement. Typically, he himself maintained that a life peerage had been offered and that he had turned it down out-of-hand.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, whom he married in 1943, and by three daughters.

MARY LAVIN

Mary Lavin, short story writer, died in Dublin yesterday aged 83. She was born in East Walpole, Massachusetts, on June 11, 1912.



GENTLE, but shrewdly perceptive, Mary Lavin was one of those rare Irish writers who chose as their subject the gentility of small-town life rather than the quaint traditions of a folksy rural Ireland. Her portraits were of provincial society in all its paralysing narrowness: its inhibitions, conservatism and grim pieties. Yet she wrote with a lucidity and tact which were to place her alongside such acknowledged masters of the short story form as Sean O'Faolain, Frank O'Connor and Liam O'Flaherty.

From the writers of the great European canon — Flaubert, Maupassant and Tolstoy — Mary Lavin learnt how the patterns and rhythms of ordinary life could be distilled and enhanced. Her short stories, limpid and unhurried in style, unfold their themes with careful deliberation, refining that which is remarkable out of everyday events.

Her skill as a storyteller seemed a part of her make-up as a person. Watching the world with her button-bright eyes, she had a restless curiosity about people, whether close friends or merely passers-by in the street. She drew her inspiration from the well of character rather than the sea of experience, plumbing the secret depths of personality.

Her stories are peopled by forlorn spinsters and sprightly nuns, by mothers mourning long-dead sons and bitterly antagonistic sisters. They are tales of love and marriage, of farming and fishing, of avarice and Puritanism and lives that trudge the narrow Irish track between desire and guilt. They focus on prurient gossipmongering and parochial grandeurs, on narrow religiosity and prosperous commercialism, on pinched lives and feeble deaths.

But it was the way in which the tales were told which proved to be as important as that which was said in them. Lavin had, in the words of one critic, "the ability to make murmurs into shouts". The damp, crude, quiet atmosphere of a somewhat old-fashioned provincial Ireland breathed from the seemingly unsophisticated frameworks of Lavin's tales in a way which placed her firmly in the best tradition of Irish raconteurs.

Mary Lavin was familiar with the world which her stories describe. Born in Massachusetts, she spent a carefree and untrammelled rural childhood until the age of nine when she and her mother moved to the little village of Athenry in the west of Ireland. There, through the wide eyes of an American child she appraised *petit bourgeois* Irish life, absorbing impressions that would later form the basis of her short stories.

In 1922 her mother bought a house in Dublin and her father returned from the United States to join them. Mary was convent-educated at Loreto College before going on to read literature at University College, Dublin. While studying for a PhD she wrote her first short story, *Miss Holland*, which was accepted for publication in the *Dublin Magazine*. The Anglo-Irish author, Lord Dunsany, read it and, marking her talent, developed from then on an interest in her work. His sponsorship served to launch her career.

After the appearance of several more of her stories in various magazines, Mary Lavin published her first collection, *Tales From Bective Bridge*, in 1942. It won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Spurred on by success, Lavin wrote prolifically from then onwards, at first from the farm which she and her first husband, a solicitor, had bought and then, after his death, from her mews house in Dublin. Before the end of her life she was to publish some 19 collections of short stories including *The Long Ago* (1944), *The Becker Wives* (1946), *A Single Lady* (1957), *In the Middle of the Fields* (1966) and *The Shrine* (1976). She also wrote two novels: *The House in Clewe Street* (1945) and *Mary O'Grady*. Her collected stories were published in 1971.

Lavin's Dublin home, where she brought up her three daughters, was a centre of bohemian Irish literary life. Writers such as Eavan Boland, Sean O'Faolain and Benedict Kieley would congregate there, enjoying impromptu dinners of spaghetti and red wine and discussing literature with the freshness of delight so typical of Lavin's outlook.

It was only in the early 1980s that Lavin's health began to fail. In 1990, after the death of her second husband, she moved to a nursing home.

Mary Lavin won many awards in her lifetime, including Guggenheim fellowships and the Katherine Mansfield Prize. She was president of the Irish Academy of Letters in 1971.

She married twice: first, in 1942 to a solicitor, William Walsh, who died in 1954. She married, secondly, in 1969 Michael MacDonald Scott, a former Roman Catholic priest, who also predeceased her in 1990. She is survived by three daughters from her first marriage.

WILLIAM HUTCHISON MURRAY

William Hutchison Murray, OBE, mountaineer and author, died on March 19 aged 83. He was born on March 18, 1913.

THE great periods of Alpine mountaineering have long produced classic books to delight non-climbers. The subject of climbing in Scotland, on the other hand, was neglected until the arrival of Bill Murray. The literary energies of previous Scottish pioneers had more often been poured into the pages of the Scottish Mountaineering Club's *Journal*, or into the club's admirable series of guides. Those books that existed were of a dry, technical nature. Murray went a long way to rectifying this situation with his inspiring descriptions of winter climbing in the Highlands.

For about twenty years, from the mid-1930s to the mid-1950s, Murray climbed and then chronicled some of the most daring ascents of his day. As a mountaineer, he was considered strong but not exceptional, although he was regarded well enough to be chosen by Eric Shipton as his number two on the Everest reconnaissance expedition of 1951. Murray's influence these days is felt less as an innovator of techniques than as a pathfinder for those who wish to climb in Britain. He did, however, introduce a technique in the 1930s, since developed, for using the slater's pick — literally the pick which had been traditionally used by slaters on roofs — on the winter ascents in Scotland.

Winter climbing in Scotland, he showed, could be every bit as rewarding and technically demanding as that in the Alps, the climbers having to overcome not only the exceptional steepness of the routes but often the near Arctic weather conditions also. Even so, young mountaineers these days have sometimes complained that Murray, with his bravura descriptions of dangers faced and overcome, had a knack of making his climbs sound harder than they actually were. This is to overlook how far the art of mountain climbing, and in particular mountaineering equipment, has progressed this century.

William Hutchison Murray was born in Liverpool but educated at Glasgow Academy. He worked as a bank clerk until he was called up for service in the war. His real passion, however, was climbing. He climbed the hills north of Glasgow as a young man, and from the early 1930s turned his attention to the Western Highlands. From 1936 he climbed with a regular team which included the legendary Dr J. H. B. Bell, W. M. Mackenzie and A. M. MacAlpine. Together they notched up some of the great mountaineering achievements of that decade. Of particular note was the first ascent of Clachaig Gully in Glencoe in 1938 — that huge gash in the side of Sgor nam Fionnaidh, which had beckoned mountaineers for years but which had until then repulsed them.

But Murray was not interested in marking up firsts in some grim spirit of competition. He approached each mountain as a marvellous opportunity, and each change in the weather offered its own peculiar challenge. If the weather was vile, then the only thing to do was to look for something more difficult. As MacAlpine sensibly remarked, when their hut was being lashed by horizontal rain: "In rain you get miserable on an easy climb. But go to a hard climb and you forget the weather."



The Everest reconnaissance expedition, 1951. From left, standing, are Shipton, Murray, Bourdillon and Riddiford. Seated in front are Ward and Hillary

This cheerful spirit led them to climb by moonlight (they were one of the first teams to use head torches), to camp on Ben Nevis in the winter, to seek out the ridges of Glencoe when crisp, freezing weather made them at their prettiest and most dangerous. On the last stage they would be sustained by what Murray liked to call "mummery's blood", consisting of equal parts of rum and Bovril. Murray described its effect thus: "It lowers angles, shortens distances and improves weather."

Murray's first foray into writing came about through an enforced period of idleness during the war. Serving in the Highland Light Infantry, he fought in the Western Desert, was captured and spent the next three years as a prisoner of war in Italy, Czechoslovakia and Germany. There he wrote the first draft of *Mountaineering in Scotland* on some lavatory paper which he had managed to procure. Published on his release, in 1947, it immediately established him as a great mountaineering writer. While he was alive to the beauty of the climbs, there were no embarrassing purple passages. Instead, he packed the book full of dense, concrete information, which allowed the reader to follow him up every pitch of Rannoch Wall or Crowberry Gulley. The book is still in print half a century later. In 1951 there followed *Undiscovered Scotland*.

Murray's prewar climbs in Scotland were the pinnacle of his achievement as a mountaineer. But the decade after the war was not without achievement. He was a member of two Himalayan expeditions, from which emerged *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* (1952); and from Shipton's reconnaissance expedition to Everest sprang *The Story of Everest* (1953) which chronicled the various attempts on the summit.

Murray lived at Lochgoilhead in Argyll. He continued to climb until recently and to write — there were about twenty books in all, and in 1985 he published what many consider to be the best biography of Rob Roy MacGregor. He was a founder member of the Alpine Climbing Group, and president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. He was appointed OBE in 1966.

Murray is survived by his wife Anne, a poet. There were no children.

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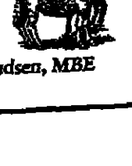
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EGYPT FEARS RADICAL PLOT BEHIND FAISAL KILLING

From Paul Martin
Cairo, March 25

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot dead in Riyadh today by a "mentally deranged" nephew while he was receiving greetings on the feast of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. As the Arab world was plunged into mourning, his brother, Crown Prince Khalid ibn Abdul Aziz, was elected by the royal court as the new ruler of the richest oil producing country. It is widely thought that Prince Fahd will be the power behind the throne. He is already being tipped as Prime Minister, a role that King Faisal reserved for himself.

Riyadh radio named the killer as Prince Faisal ibn Musaed, a nephew of the king and member of the Saud family which is estimated to number 5,000. The king was rushed to hospital, but died on the way.

King Faisal was the greatest proponent of moderation in the Arab world. Egyptian political sources are expressing fears that the assassination could have been an attempt by radical Arab political elements to wreck Saudi Arabia's present stability and open up the country to more revolutionary influences.

Egypt's deep concern is amplified by the fact that Cairo has come to rely on the support of the Saudis for its moderate Middle East policy. Throughout all the phases of President Sadat's diplomatic offensive aimed at solving the Middle East crisis, he has worked in close consultation with Saudi Arabia.

King Faisal was in a small anteroom of his modest palace in Riyadh, receiving princes and commoners when the assassin struck. Prince Faisal was in the line to shake hands with the King when he pulled out a revolver from his robes and shot him several times.

On these occasions the King is usually surrounded by his Askars, Beduin armed with sub-machineguns and the traditional dagger sheathed in gold scabbard. What is not known is whether Prince Faisal was gunned down or captured alive by the guards. Later, a palace spokesman said that initial investigations had shown that "the assassin acted alone and without accomplices". In Beirut the Saudi Arabian Embassy confirmed that the prince, said to be aged between 28 and 30, had been treated abroad for a mental illness.

The King, who was 69, was the target of numerous assassination and coup attempts during his 11 years' rule. Before the death was disclosed, the royal court met to decide on the successor. It proclaimed Crown Prince Khalid as the new King. Prince Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz, Interior Minister and another of King Faisal's brothers, was named the new Crown Prince.

The new King is the eldest of the survivors among the late King Ibn Saud's 40 sons. Never an impressive political figure, he did earn King Faisal's confidence and was at his side for most of the dead monarch's rule.

What is not known is the stand either the new King or the Crown Prince will take on the vital issues at hand. For instance, King Faisal had the ambition to pray before he died in the Mosque of Omar, Islam's third holiest shrine now under Israel occupation in Arab Jerusalem. This motivated much of his passion for the Arab cause in the Middle East conflict.

ON THIS DAY

March 26, 1975

In June, the King's assassin, Prince Musaed was publicly beheaded. On the death of King Khalid in 1982 his half-brother Prince Fahd succeeded him

Newcastle and Manchester United left trailing by scoring prowess of Liverpool stars

James makes his point by saving the best for ITF



James, of Liverpool, displays the dynamic style that has racked up the points and made him the most valuable goalkeeper in ITF

Newcastle will not win the Premiership — well, not in the Interactive Team Football (ITF) game, at least. Kevin Keegan's expensive struggle to take the title to the North East ran aground long ago. Despite games in hand and a wealth of talent at his disposal, 181 points is simply too much to make up.

If the top sides in the real Premiership were judged by ITF standards, the table would take on a very different look. Liverpool, whose defeat at the hands of Nottingham Forest may well have ended their challenge in the real world, would be ahead with 572 points, closely followed by Aston Villa on 555 with Manchester United struggling on 517. Keegan's poor chaps would be limping along in fifth place with 391, behind Tottenham on 416.

None of this comes as any surprise to leading ITF selectors. They know that it is not only superstars who win the points but the grafters, the men who turn out week after week and rack up the points quietly and efficiently. Alex Ferguson may be prepared to spend around £7 million on the erratic striker, Andy Cole, but not many ITF managers are taking such a risk. Overpriced, over-rated and over the bar — it is no way to win.

Liverpool, on the other hand, are winning on all counts. With Robbie Fowler scoring goals like it is going out of fashion, he has already earned 91 points for Roy Evans and is the ITF's top points-winner. But their success is not solely based on Fowler's eye for goal.

David James is the highest-scoring goalkeeper, while even the lowest-scoring regular members of the side, Ruddock and Scales, are among the top-scoring centre backs in ITF. Their tally of 35 points each is beaten only by Bruce, of Manchester United, Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, and Mark Wright of . . . Liverpool.

In midfield, Steve McManaman is streets ahead of his rivals with 69 points, making Newcastle look distinctly short of ideas. The nearest they can come to the Liverpool maestro is Robert Lee, on a meagre 50 points. Even Ryan Giggs, he of the mazy runs and dodgy haircuts, can only stand in awe, with 60 points. John Barnes can still teach the youngsters a things or two, though, with 54 points.

According to the ITF, Liverpool are in line for another Premiership title — even though Messrs Ferguson and Keegan may think differently. But then, as any supporter will tell you, managers live in a fantasy world of their own.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form or fitness, you can move into the transfer market. ITF has a system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back).

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 333 331** line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call **004 499 020 0631** and you will be charged at 58p per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides, and Alan McDonald, of Queens Park Rangers, gives his selection opposite. Like him, you may spend £4.5 million on Gary Pallister — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win *and* lose you points. With Jones Boys Six setting the pace, is it time to delve into the transfer market?

☐ ***All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

	IN		
Code	Player	Club	Value
22006	B Small	Bolton	£0.50m
	OUT		
Code	Player	Club	Value
21805	B Small	A Villa	£0.50m

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	**All players**	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	**Manager**	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

'Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p'

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

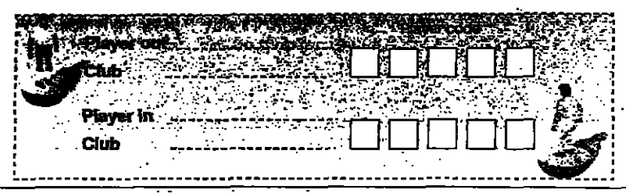
The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.



THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	609
2	Gohils Gods 65	(B Gohil)	591
3	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	577
4	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	573
5	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	572
6	Teddy Five	(B Bare)	565
7	Fair Fair Flapster	(C Woodward)	564
7	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	564
7	Kissapurs Five	(E Kisby)	564
10	Nigels Right Foot	(D Patel)	563
10	Apollo 2	(S Lazarids)	563
12	Tommy Cockles XI	(P Johnson)	556
13	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	555
13	Pisyco And Smither	(K Booth)	555
15	Estuary	(P Giles)	553
15	Burnwell United	(R Banham)	553
17	Sharon's Buds	(D Conroy)	552
18	Jessicas Darlings 4	(A Nadison)	551
19	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	550
20	Nobby One	(A Brown)	549
20	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	549
22	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	548
23	Tonys All Stars	(A Boyland)	547
24	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	544
24	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	544
26	A	(M Corless)	542
26	Steves Lions 6	(S Brewer)	542
26	———	(J Nicholl)	542
29	Ormy Stars	(D Gornall)	541
30	Paron United	(A Hewitt)	540
30	Cameron Athan	(J Reader)	540
32	Reacue City 2	(J Sanderson)	539
33	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	538
33	Hastoe Rovers	(P Bannion)	538
33	Jordans XI	(P Barnard)	538
33	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	538
37	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	537
37	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	537
39	Dwayns Dribblers	(A Philcox)	535
40	Reggie's Reds	(J Bridge)	534
41	Aldrie	(A Ford)	533
41	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	533
41	Nirvana FC	(J Donovan)	533
44	DDH 2	(M Corless)	532
44	Eggs N'Ham	(D Warner)	532
44	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	532
47	The Living Dead	(T Steckin)	531
47	Bartic Thistles	(C Nicol)	531
47	Albemarle Town	(I Hedges)	531
50	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	530
50	Burnzy's Babes	(T Burns)	530
50	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	530
50	Points Make Prizes	(D Chopping)	530
54	March Pass	(M McGovern)	529
54	Chip N' Dale XI	(E Arrowsmith)	529
54	Metro Utd	(J Sanderson)	529
54	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	529
54	The Likely Lads	(G Pedder)	529
54	Justintime	(A Kent)	529
60	Weetabix Utd 3	(D Smith)	528
60	The Locksters	(D Lock)	528
60	Vesuvio	(G Batchelor)	528
60	DM OO 4	(D McGregor)	528
60	DM OO 3	(D McGregor)	528
65	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	527
65	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	527
67	Steves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	525
67	Good Times United	(T Stableford)	525
67	Pursell Rangers	(F Macdonald Pursell)	525
67	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	525
67	Sensible City	(G Cole)	525
67	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	525
67	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	525
74	Strangers	(G Banks)	524
74	Platty Rovers	(I Platt)	524
74	Wotnoshearer	(K Booth)	524
77	Steves Lions 1	(S Brewer)	523
77	Nadar	(A Neviazsky)	523
79	Doug's Desperados	(D Richardson)	522
79	Commuting Eleven	(B Evans)	522
79	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	522
82	Bubwith Utd	(M Larkham)	521
82	DM 001	(D McGregor)	521
84	Clares Ducks	(T Collier)	520
85	———	(——)	519
85	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	519
85	Nats Lions	(N Brewer)	519
85	The Mind Boogles	(Mr P McDowall)	519
85	Rassell 3	(D Shuter)	519
85	Wildebeest	(Mr J Albertsen)	519
91	Steves Lions 8	(S Brewer)	518
91	Eleven For Nork	(Mr P S Gubala)	518
91	Carling XI	(P Parke)	518
94	Monster Monster	(M Parish)	517
94	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	517
96	Nippers	(K Hughes)	516
96	Steves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	516
96	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	516
96	Jacobookie FC	(A Jacobucci)	516
96	Kisspura Two	(E Kisby)	516
101	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	515
101	Bashful Bankers	(C Alavoine)	515
103	Daves Lisbon Lions	(D Strachan)	514
103	Wannabee Stars	(A Harris)	514
103	Dun Elm Saints	(J Doyle)	514
103	Partizan Beograd I	(D Stojkovic)	514
103	Das Boot	(D Sutton)	514
103	Pig In A Poke	(J Waters)	514
103	Torr's Tormentors	(B Torr)	514
103	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	514
111	Merson The Person	(S Blane)	513
112	Steve's Scorers	(S Tinkler)	512
112	Built Around Les	(J Pregon)	512
112	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	512
112	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podeur)	512
112	Kisspurs Three	(E Kisby)	512
112	110 Percent	(M Doherty)	512
112	Racing Club Hanrei	(G Williams)	512
119	Twighlight United	(P Dilworth)	511
119	The Mighty Dunston	(D Hall)	511
119	Skunk City	(M Franks)	511
119	Journeymen	(A Jordan)	511
119	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	511
119	Gohils Gods 73	(B Gohil)	511
119	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	511
126	Stigwig Utd	(S Gorse)	510
126	Steves Lions 2	(S Brewer)	510
126	Rempstone Rovers	(N Woodroffe)	510
126	St Remy Strikers	(G Dabnor)	510
126	Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	510
126	Sky Blue Royles	(R Foster)	510
126	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	510
133	Le Socks	(I Aldous)	509
133	Bon Accord	(I Kelson)	509
133	Old Turf	(J Ratcliffe)	509
133	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	509
133	Tour De Force	(C Cuffaz)	509
133	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	509
133	D M 002	(D McGregor)	509
133	Donnay's Dream	(H Matthews)	509
141	JRFC 2	(J Rolf)	508
141	Stu's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	508
141	The Untouchables	(V Beeharie)	508
141	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	508
145	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	507
145	Wimps Utd	(A Heath)	507
145	Tilehurst Tornados	(D Chamberlain)	507
145	Bill's Best Pirates	(D Butlin)	507
145	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	507
145	Long Drive	(I Parker)	507
151	Headstar	(I Stokes)	506
151	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	506
151	Hells Angels	(H Thompson)	506
151	Seldom United	(T Armitage)	506
151	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	506
156	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	505
156	New Babes Eleven	(I Godwin)	505
156	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	505
156	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	505
156	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	505
156	The Rockers	(N Wheatley)	505
156	Palm Bay XI	(R Hall)	505
163	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	504
163	Andys Elites	(A Poole)	504
163	The Conjurers	(D Farmer)	504
163	Lemonlas	(P Gregoriou)	504
163	The Fifty Granders	(R Smith)	504
163	The Magicians	(A Creegan)	504
163	Platypus United	(M Allison)	504
163	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	504
163	Bal's Team	(B Ghumen)	504
172	KBT Utd	(R Patterson)	503
172	Nanou	(G Behdjejian)	503
172	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	503
172	———	(N Thompson)	503
172	Stanmore Strikers	(D Aldous)	503
172	The Black Knights	(R Green)	503
172	Rijnaard's Rebels	(A Targett)	503
172	The Gentleman	(D Grassick)	503
172	Arabest	(G Howitt)	503
172	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Ball)	503
182	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	502
182	Death Or Glory	(A Davies)	502
182	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scaletta)	502
182	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kempher)	502
182	Merts Mates 20	(M Hiltzi)	502
182	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	502
182	The 2 Uffies	(M Forde)	502
182	Victoria Vandals	(D Gunter)	502
182	Egerton Park	(D Rhoades)	502
191	Red Star Richmond	(S Glanville)	501
191	JRFC 13	(J Rolf)	501
191	The Doug Hutches	(M Stacey)	501
191	Nokia Rangers	(A Whyte)	501
191	Mark XI	(M Lawrence)	501
191	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	501
191	Achilles Heel	(M Koutas)	501
191	Seven Kings FC 1	(S Siddiqui)	501
191	Sullies Golden Players	(G Sullivan)	501
191	———	(——)	501
191	Lario Best Eleven	(L Giuliani)	501
191	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	501
203	HJ EC Boys	(E Linsley)	500
203	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)	500
203	———	(——)	500
203	Ruefull Rabbits	(J Whateley)	500
203	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	500
203	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	500
203	Joe Royles Wink 3	(T Gammage)	500
203	Triple Peelers	(J Portwood)	500
203	Trelissick Town	(M Phillips)	500
203	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	500
203	Razor's Raiders	(R Knowles)	500
203	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	500
215	Demon Stones FC	(P McCauley)	499
215	JRFC 17	(J Rolf)	499
215	Wells S Wonder	(A Wells)	499
215	Aberspurs	(G Shand)	499
215	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	499
215	Whitegoal Utd	(A Hughes)	499
215	Teltown	(T Wood)	498
215	I Hate Football	(E Lam)	498
223	Scol Utd	(B Scollick)	498
223	Aisean Dynamoes	(A Hill)	498
223	Jon Beeneys Donner	(J Parkinson)	498
223	JK's Dolphins	(J Kitchen)	498
223	Pallisters Army	(J Pregon)	498
223	Andrew's Allstars	(A Suggitt)	498
223	5	(M Corless)	498
230	Bijou	(M Minasian)	497
230	PSV Winoften	(D Haycock)	497
230	The Select Few	(S Davison)	497
230	Levellers XI	(R Thorp)	497
230	Orbital Brushes	(S Brocom)	497
230	Randy Ravers	(F Phillips)	497
230	Kisspurs Four	(E Kisby)	497
230	Partick Thistle 4	(C Nicol)	497
238	Chick 0	(S Tahvili)	496
238	Avenue Dunelmian Uni	(K Balfour)	496
238	Clean Sheet XI	(I Rawlinson-Smith)	496
238	Brillo Boys	(C Timson)	496
238	Team Tobias	(P Tobias)	496
238	Ray Hates Footie	(M Woods)	496
238	No Defence Ok	(J Portwood)	496
238	Jontbril 3	(J Grinsell)	496
246	Mac United	(T McCluskey)	495
246	Totteridge United	(D Seal)	495
246	Enfield Reserves	(N Cantwell)	495
246	Oasis Shiraz	(P Bainbridge)	495
246	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	495

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



'Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p'

Call the ITF checkline on **0891 774 796**

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	-6
10102	B Mimms	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+10	+40
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5	-19
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+48
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	-5	-8
10502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Srnicek	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+2
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-4	+6
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-1	-48
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-8	-27
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-27
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-2	-9
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+4	+30
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	-6
11401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	-3	-11
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	-5	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-7	-8
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-32
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	-7	-35
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+5	+35
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	-17
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-6	-6

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+22
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+31
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	0	+38
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	+8	+22
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	+5	+36
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+4	+30
20302	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+21
20303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-13
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+52
20402	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+30
20501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	0	+15
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	-2	+19
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-2	-4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+15
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+24
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+14
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+39
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+20
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	-14
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-8
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20804	T Challis	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	-4	-8
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-4	-21
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	+11
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	0	+3
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+7
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0	+15
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	0	+7
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+22
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+48
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+46
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	+4
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-9
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-17
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	+19
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	-1	-9
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	+3
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	-3	+16
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11
21505	M Hottiger	Everton	3.00	-3	-5
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	+1
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-23
21702	R Edghill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21706	M Frontzeck	Manchester City	1.50	-3	-10
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+46
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	+4	+14
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+55
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4	+21
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+16
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	+4	-1
21905	Branco	Middlesborough	2.50	+1	0
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-3	-6
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-2	-9
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	-16
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1

CENTRE DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+25
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+19
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	+8	+47
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+27
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	+8	+10
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+4	+26
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+13
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	+38
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+2	+35
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+35
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	+3	+44
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	0	+20
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	-2	+15
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	-3	-6
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13
30506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+5	+24
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+28
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+20
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	+33
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+1	+26
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-3
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30705	J Gundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0



McDonald's decision to select several friends in his team appears to be serving him well

Heading for Europe

Alan McDonald, the QPR defender, is having a good season with his ITF team

I DID have my team selection pinned up on the notice-board in the kitchen so I knew who was in and who was likely to be doing well. But, since we had the kitchen fitters in, I can't even find the board, much less the team-sheet. Never mind, I've just heard the good news that Mac's Moodies are in sixth place in the PFA league. We're going for Europe now; these are heady days.

When I picked the team, I opted for a few friends, then a few steady players and a couple who no one else would go for. I was limited by the price but they were all players who I thought had a good chance of doing well. Clive Wilson used to play at QPR, so I know him, Gary Pallister is a steady player and Niall Quinn and Dean Holdsworth are always going to score goals.

I also tried to get a few penalty-takers in the team. Wilson used to take them before joining Tottenham Hotspur and Jim Magilton has earned a few points playing for Southampton this season. I wish I had bought Iain Dowie, now he is at West Ham United. When I was picking the team, he was still at Crystal Palace, so was not in the reckoning.

David Batty is causing a few problems. Now that he has gone to St James' Park, it means I have three Newcastle United players in the side. I don't want to change a winning team, but I will have to get rid of one of them. It will probably be Lee Clarke.

I couldn't believe it when I saw Batty was on offer for only £1.5 million. I've always liked him as a player and was expecting him to be worth about £4 million. He is another good, steady player and should get me a fair few points.

Quinn is another bargain at £4 million. He is still only a young man but he seems to have been around for a long time. I have played against him for years in the Premiership and in the internationals against Ireland.

I felt sorry for him when he had that horrific injury and missed the World Cup finals, but he has recovered from that. Manchester City seem to have recovered, too, which is bad news for us at QPR.

It is tight at the bottom of the table, there are only a few points separating the teams. A couple of results could change everything. But we don't seem to be getting the luck at the moment. When we played Manchester United, we were on top in the second half but the referee played four minutes of extra time and they scored. It sums up our season.

But at least Mac's Moodies are in the right half of the table. My top points-winner so far is Gary McAllister, another friend of mine. He is a top-quality player and scores from penalties and free kicks. That is one of the good things about him — he can get me points with a clean sheet and by scoring. Leeds were my tip as dark horses for the championship this season. They started off so well with Yeboah scoring unbelievable goals, but then they went through a bad spell.

My only problem now is where to find another midfield player for £1.5 million. Maybe I will look at some of the youngsters from Manchester United. I am just glad that I am not a real manager.

McDONALD'S TEAM

Goalkeeper:	P Srnicek	(Newcastle)	£3m
Full backs:	R Jones	(Liverpool)	£3m
	C Wilson	(Tottenham H)	£2.5m
Centre backs:	G Pallister	(Man Utd)	£4.5m
	C Palmer	(Leeds)	£3m
Midfielders:	D Batty	(Newcastle)	£1.5m
	G McAllister	(Leeds)	£4m
	L Clarke	(Newcastle)	£1.5m
	J Magilton	(Southampton)	£3m
Strikers:	N Quinn	(Man City)	£4m
	D Holdsworth	(Wimbledon)	£4m
Manager:	R Wilkins	(QPR)	£1m

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-15
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	0
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	+1	-10
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-20
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	+5
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	+9
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31101	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+13
31102	J Kjeldbjerg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	+21
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	+2	+5
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	+3	+30
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	+4	+10
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	-2
31303	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	-4	+15
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	-5	+13
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+20
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31406	S Bilic	West Ham United	1.50	-3	+5
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+31
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-3	+19
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	+11
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	+1
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-13
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31606	L Dalsh	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-4	+7
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-3	+7
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+38
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+4	+28
31804	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+13
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+17
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+15
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-18
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	+4
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-10
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	+5
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+33
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+32
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+10
40110	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+38
40111	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+12
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+3
40201	R Giggs	Manchester United	5.50	+4	+60
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+3	+39
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+41
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+3	+40
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	0	+36
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+38
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+51
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+3	+47
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+21
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+33
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+1
40308	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+7	+69
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0	+22
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+3	+54
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	+3	+28
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+3	+42
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+1	+56
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+1	+37
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+23
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	+1	+7
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+3	+50
40603	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	+3	+39
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+30
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+35
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+18
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1
40610	D Batty	Newcastle United	1.50	+2	+32
40701	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+4	+33
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+2	+26
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+3	+44
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+16
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+2	+31
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+19
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+33
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+1	+38
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+1
40809	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+9
40810	M Brazier	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+1	+15
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+2	+50
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+3	+36
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+2	+42
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+1	+48
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+17
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	0	+14
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+6
41006	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	+1	+25
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	+1	+18
41008	M Walters	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	0	+48
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+2	+48
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+39
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+9
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+2	+15
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0	+32
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	0	+25
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+3	+56
41204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+17
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	+1	+6
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+16
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+3	+39
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	1.50	0	+2
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	+10
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+32
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+1	+17
41305	K Ingesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	+3	+16
41309	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+3	+25
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0	+19
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+2	+44
41408	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+36
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+26
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	+2	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+27
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+1	+33
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	+1	+27
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+1	+22
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+35
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+10
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+3	+56
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+25
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+33
41608	M Isaias	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+43
41701	G Flitcroft	Manchester City	2.50	0	+25
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	-2	+37
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+19
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+39
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+49
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+20
41709	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	+1	+1
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+2	+37
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+33
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+56
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+23
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+32
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+21
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+15
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+6	+29
42009	S Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+4	+26

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	0	+86
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+22
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+14
50105	N Goodm'dsson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+6	+58
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+49
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+17
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+1	+39
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+35
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+21
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50306	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+4	+91
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+1	+56
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	+1	+53
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+33
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	0	+19
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+4	+74
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+37
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	+4	+8
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+2	+73
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+4	+59
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+31
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+1	+27
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+5
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+26
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+42
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	+5	+31
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+18
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+3	+12
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	+2	+40
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	+1	+29
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+1	+53
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1	+24
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+3	+33
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+39
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+20
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+3	+44
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+45
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+19
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+1	+42
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+3	+30
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+4	+38
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+11
51307	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+2
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	0	+44
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+6	+45
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	+2	+6
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1	+26
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	0	+25
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	+1	+30
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+1	+52
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	0	+55
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+24
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+32
51607	E Jess	Coventry City	3.00	0	+3
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+1

THE TIMES TODAY TUESDAY MARCH 26 1996

NEWS

Global ban on British beef exports

■ The European Union last night imposed a world-wide ban on British beef exports after the Government held back from new measures, including the mass slaughter of cattle, to reassure the country and the Continent.

In a move that provoked fury and disbelief in Westminster the Commision claimed that it had the legal powers to order a ban involving third countries, although senior British officials in Brussels doubted that ..... **Pages 1, 2, 8, 9, 19, 29**

Scientists reveal two more CJD victims

■ Scientists with the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee disclosed that two more patients, aged 36 and 42, may be infected with the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which has been linked to BSE in cattle. Ten other confirmed cases were announced last week..... **Page 1**

Modahl ban lifted

The International Athletic Federation lifted its four-year ban on the British runner Diane Modahl for suspected drug use, opening the way for her selection for the Atlanta Olympics..... **Pages 1, 48**

Divorce concessions

Ministers moved to avert a crippling backbench rebellion over the Government's divorce law reforms, offering a series of concessions to Tory opponents of the Family Law Bill ..... **Pages 1, 2, 39**

Woman's victory

A company director sacked after she complained about being paid less than her male opposite number, has won a £140,000 settlement from her former employers..... **Page 3**

Marquess sells up

The Marquess of Bristol blamed the prospect of a Labour Government for his selling the contents of his private apartments at his family home, Ickworth..... **Page 3**

Referee blamed

Ben Smolden, 21, the rugby player paralysed after a scrum collapsed, told the High Court that he blamed the referee and an opponent..... **Page 5**

Asbestos flats

Conservative leaders on Westminster City Council put homeless families into asbestos-ridden high rise flats, an independent report found ..... **Page 6**

Manila mugging

Jacqueline Kane, 22, a British teacher, was recovering in a Philippine hospital after being attacked by a mugger wielding an ice pick minutes after landing at Manila airport..... **Page 7**

Blasphemy challenge

Nigel Wingrove, director of a film that includes scenes of Christ on the cross being caressed by a nun, is to challenge Britain's blasphemy law in the European Court of Human Rights..... **Page 7**

China stands easy

China announced that its war games in the Taiwan Strait were over, moving the issues dividing it and Taiwan into the political arena. US Navy vessels are staying in the area..... **Page 11**

Italian schism

Umberto Bossi, Italy's Northern League leader, called for the establishment of a separate state in northern Italy, to be known as Padania..... **Page 12**

Dole tribute to Nixon

Bob Dole identified himself with Richard Nixon by praising him in a speech while campaigning in California for the Republican primary..... **Page 13**

El Dorado rush

At least 12,000 gold diggers are converging on a lush hilly area of the Amazon where South America's biggest gold deposit may have been found..... **Page 14**

Sheriff of Nottingham takes revenge

■ Robin Hood is being retired by Nottingham's civic leaders because they think his image is inappropriate for a city at the cutting edge of technology. The Sheriff of Nottingham and a consortium of local businessmen have asked advertising agencies to design a new symbol for city which will have nothing to do with wealth redistribution..... **Pages 3, 19**



The Queen with the Chief Rabbi of Poland on Warsaw's "Umschlagplatz" from where Jews were sent to Treblinka. **Pages 5, 19**

BUSINESS

Halifax: Britain's biggest building society has emerged as victor in the auction for Clerical Medical in a deal that values the life assurance mutual at £800 million..... **Page 25**

BCCI: Creditors of the collapsed bank attempted to queue-jump, demanding in the High Court that their claims be paid in full before those of others..... **Page 25**

Inchcape: Charles Mackay resigned as chief executive after the Toyota distributor revealed a 92 per cent drop in full year profits and cut its dividend..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 25.1 points to close at 3681.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.9 to 83.3, down from $1.5348 to $1.5240 and from DM2.2646 to DM2.2517 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth is to stand down as England team manager but will continue as chairman of selectors. David Lloyd, John Emburey and Phil Neale are candidates for the post..... **Page 48**

Athletics: The reliability of drug-testing has been dealt a severe blow by the case of Diane Modahl, who was exonerated by the international federation..... **Page 48**

Football: The Independent Television Commission is likely to act against a commercial featuring Eric Cantona in action against an "evil" XI..... **Page 48**

Rugby union: The RFU and England's leading clubs edged closer to agreement but differences remain about player contracts and competition structures ..... **Page 46**

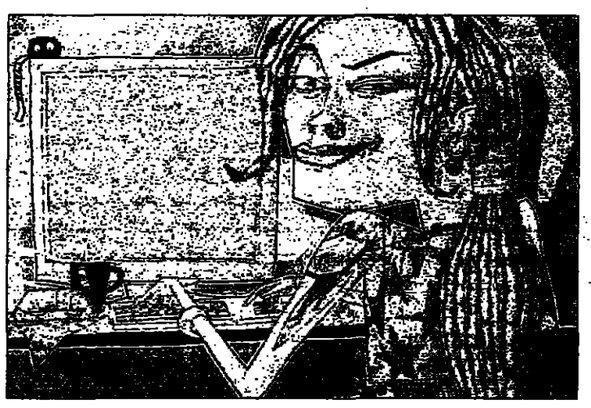
ARTS

Born in the USA: The Saatchi Gallery's exhibition of rising young American artists is infused with the darkest humour..... **Page 33**

Bohemians abroad: A remarkable new musical, transposing the story of Puccini's opera *La Bohème* to a modern-day loft in Manhattan's Lower East Side, has become the talk of New York..... **Page 34**

Fresh steps: Today the Arts Council will unveil a new strategy for dance: more performances, more venues, better-paid dancers. But where is the money going to come from?..... **Page 35**

Centre-stage: With characteristic flair Sir John Drummond, the former director of the BBC Proms, stage-managed proceedings in his own tribute concert..... **Page 35**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
In our guide to new technology: high-tech café society

■ **PROPERTY**
Cosy semi or crumbling stately pile with 40 rooms and no heating? The couple who took the tough option

THE LEADERS

Cheers for Taiwan. It faced down ugly intimidation by the mainland Chinese regime. It is squarely in the American interest to keep Taiwan democratic and free, and Americans must conduct a steady, tough and principled policy that encourages China to be less provocative — *The Washington Post*

BODY AND MIND

First burger: A cake of minced beef was invented in the last century. The rest is history..... **Page 17**

Daily chat: A volunteer's approach to mental patients..... **Page 17**

Raising baby hopes: A new technique is bringing hope to hundreds of childless couples..... **Page 16**

It's in the genes: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the symptoms of the mysterious lupus ..... **Page 16**

LAW

False logic: Does Michael Howard's new scheme really mean stiffer sentences?..... **Page 37**

Private passion: People should be protected, whether they spend time with boyfriends, girlfriends or their stamp collection ..... **Page 37**

EDUCATION

Testplan: Day two of our guide to help parents and their children to face the national curriculum tests with confidence..... **Page 15**

OBITUARIES

LIBBY PURVES

My heart always sinks when people feel they have to justify their amusements as conservation, or a sponsored charity event, or a training module, or part of a fitness programme. It is such a timid way to live..... **Page 18**

WOODROW WYATT

There is a burgeoning belief that it is the Government's duty to extend indefinitely our expectation of life and to protect us from risk on the way. But banning marginally risky products frequently has unintended consequences ..... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Labour's training package, to be announced later this week, addresses redundancies and uncertain job prospects, which remain at the top of peoples' worries and will not be answered just by a few quarters of rising living standards, tax cuts and slogans about enterprise..... **Page 2**

Ron Hayward, General Secretary of the Labour Party, 1972-82; **Mary Lavin**, short story writer; **W. H. Murray**, mountaineer and author ..... **Page 21**

Beef products in non-beef foods; national day of remembrance; student unions; popularity of classical music; Earl of Iveagh..... **Page 19**

TELEVISION

Preview: The Morris Minor arrives but where to buy one? *Motormania* (Channel 4, 8pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard goes on the beat with the Specials..... **Page 47**

Where's the beef?

The Health Secretary presented the House of Commons with a great weight of scientific opinion but he failed to answer the question on which the future of British beef hangs..... **Page 19**

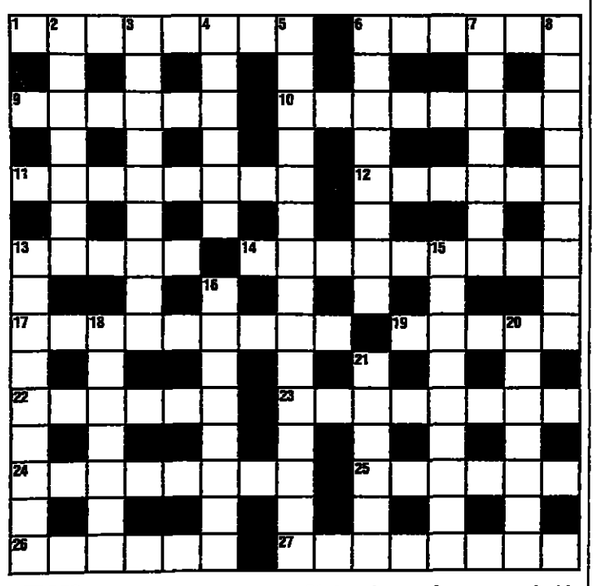
The Queen in Poland

Honouring historic links and the contribution of Poles who settled in Britain is relatively easy. Satisfying Poland's expectations of Britain and its West European allies is more difficult..... **Page 19**

Sheriff strikes back

Nottingham should hang on to Robin Hood for fear of something not half so good..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,125



ACROSS

1 In theatre, it depends on support doctor gets with work (8).
6 Support religious leader needed in divided church (6).
9 Complains as hard drinks get passed around (6).
10 Agonies created by wrong sure to be settled (8).
11 Course directors giving old protective headgear to soldiers (8).
12 It goes wrong for self-serving type (6).
13 Makes impact with bills in large numbers (5).
14 Slander like a catty type, we hear (9).
17 Managed returns to share account (9).
19 Mounties to some extent set free (5).
22 Liaison in business (6).
23 Pass on responsibility for the takings (8).
24 American stockman escaped with chore undone (8).
25 Transport to bring gold ashore (6).
26 Course set by sailors in current (6).
27 Able to calculate tax on source of earnings by miners (8).

DOWN

2 Effect a letter from abroad produced on first lady (7).
3 Centrepiece manufacturer in Warwick? (9).
4 Summary removal of head of venture (6).
5 Accelerated and sped out of town on trip (3,4,4,4).
6 Concerned to keep temper, being reprimanded (8).
7 Period in school — fashionable one providing last places to train? (7).
8 Indecision putting the case in disarray (9).
13 Female creature, thanks to weight gain, displays figure that's magic! (9).
15 Newspaper proprietor entertaining large number for evening drink (9).
16 Way to encourage a swimmer (8).
18 Eastern friend casually displaying Polish (7).
20 Popular one-time performer, not altogether nice (7).
21 Prize initially given to runner-up in introductory test (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,124

C	H	A	O	S		B	O	W	W	I	N	D	O	W
H		M		T		R		I		N		I		H
E	M	P	T	I	N	E	S	S		V	I	S	T	A
C		L		L		D		H		E		M		L
K	E	E	P	E	R		A	Y	R	S	H	I	R	E
M				T		S		W		T		S		
A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	T		I	S	L	E
T		M		O		R		S		A		A		X
E	S	P	Y		M	E	T	H	U	S	E	L	A	H
		O		B		E		Y		P		I		
M	I	S	P	R	I	N	T		M	I	D	R	I	B
O		T		A		P		A		R		E		I
T	R	U	C	K		L	A	N	D	A	U	L	E	T
I		R		E	A	T		N		I		O		
F	R	E	E	S	T	Y	L	E		T	U	T	O	R

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent	709
Shropsh Heref& Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gtr mnyd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weather call is charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	730
Essex,Herts,Beds,Bucks,Berks,Oxon	731
Kent,Surrey,Sussex,Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.49 am — Sun sets: 6.24 pm

Moon sets 1.01 am — Moon rises 10.02 am

First quarter tomorrow

London 6.24 pm to 5.47 am
Bristol 6.34 pm to 5.57 am
Edinburgh 6.39 pm to 5.56 am
Manchester 6.34 pm to 5.54 am
Penzance 6.45 pm to 6.04 am

An Easter Bouquet From Jersey with Love

Send someone special an "Apri Showers" bouquet of 6 Carnations & 12 Freesias in Easter Colours with Box Fern and Gypsophila sent by 1st Class Post (U.K. only) for only £12.99
Garland Flowers
Le Pressoir, St John, Jersey.
Call 01534 863621
Fax 01534 862439

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Eastern England will be mostly dry apart from patchy drizzle; southernmost counties and South Wales will see outbreaks of rain, slowly dying away. North Wales and northwest England will be dry and bright at times.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be dry with bright or sunny spells. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy and mainly dry; wintry showers in far north

☐ **London, SE, Central S England, S Wales:** cloudy with patchy light rain at first. Wind mainly NE fresh or strong. Cold Max 6C to 8C (43F to 46F).

☐ **E Angila, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** rather cloudy but mainly dry. Wind moderate to fresh, locally strong. Cold Max 5C to 6C (41F to 43 F).

☐ **Midlands, Cent N England:** cloudy but mostly dry. Wind fresh locally strong NE. Cool. Max 6C to 8C (43F to 46F).

☐ **Channel Is, SW England:** cloudy with persistent rain at first, becoming patchy, then dying out. Wind E to NE fresh to strong, locally near gale. Cool. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry with rather cloudy skies at first but bright or sunny spells developing. Wind E to NE fresh to strong. Max 6C to 8C (43F to 46F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright or sunny spells and wintry showers. Wind moderate or fresh mainly N. Max 4C to 5C (39F to 41F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry with some brightness

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 9 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

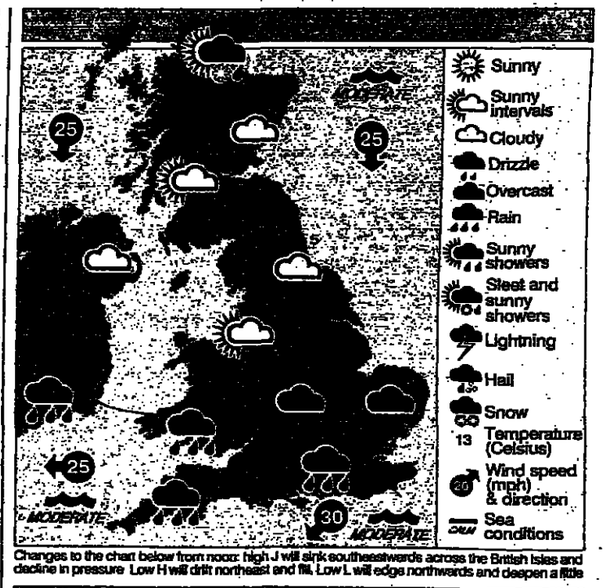
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.2	-	8	46	c
Anglesey	3.2	0.32	13	55	r
Aviemore	2.6	-	8	46	b
Belfast	-	0.05	-	45	r
Birmingham	-	0.02	9	48	c
Bognor R	4.0	-	13	55	b
Bournem'th	-	-	14	57	b
Bristol	0.1	-	13	55	c
Cardiff	-	-	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.24	10	50	c
Cromer	-	-	5	41	du
Eastbourne	1.3	-	8	46	c
Edinburgh	5.8	-	8	46	b
Eskdalemuir	-	-	4	39	c
Exmouth	2.7	-	13	55	b
Fishguard	5.1	0.06	14	57	s
Folkestone	1.5	-	7	45	c
Glasgow	7.0	-	9	48	b
Guernsey	7.1	-	15	59	s
Hastings	1.4	-	9	48	c
Hayling I.	3.5	-	13	55	b
Herne Bay	-	-	6	43	du
Hove	7.1	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	1.0	0.01	7	45	c
Isle of Man	-	0.05	7	45	r
Jersey	6.6	-	17	63	b
Kintyre	6.6	-	9	48	s
Lerwick	2.5	0.01	9	48	c
Leuchars	8.1	-	8	46	s
Littlehmptn	3.8	-	13	55	b
Liverpool	-	0.07	8	46	r
London	-	-	8	46	du
Lowestoft	-	-	6	43	du
Manchester	0.1	0.05	9	48	r
Margate	-	-	6	43	fg
Minehead	-	-	11	52	c
Morecambe	-	0.03	8	46	r
Newcastle	-	-	6	43	du
Newquay	2.2	-	x	x	c
Norwich	-	-	8	46	c
Oxford	2.4	-	12	54	b
Penzance	5.0	-	13	55	b
Prestatyn	x	0.15	10	50	c
Ross-o-wye	-	-	10	50	c
Salcombe	1.4	-	11	52	c
Sandown	1.6	-	9	48	c
Saunton Snd	1.1	-	16	61	c
Scarboro'	-	-	5	41	du
Shanklin	x	x	x	x	b
Shrewsbury	-	0.13	8	46	r
Southend	2.2	-	10	50	c
Southport	0.6	0.07	9	48	du
Southsea	1.1	-	13	55	c
Stornoway	7.7	0.02	8	46	s
Swanage	-	-	8	46	du
Teignmouth	0.4	-	11	52	c
Torquay	0.8	-	11	52	c
Ventnor	2.7	-	10	50	c
Weymouth	4.5	-	12	54	b

These are Sunday's figures

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	C'phagn	2	36	c	Malaga	19	66	f
Akrotiri	14	57	f	Dublin	7	45	d	Malta	18	64	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Melb'rne	21	70	x
Algiers	32	90	s	Faro	20	68	f	Mexico C	21	70	s
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Florence	17	63	c	Miami	24	75	f
Athens	12	54	f	Frankfurt	13	55	c	Milan	13	55	c
B Aires	13	55	f	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	2	36	x
Bahrain	22	72	f	Geneva	17	63	s	Moscow	4	39	s
Bangkok	35	95	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	16	61	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	3	37	s	N Delhi	27	81	s
Barcelona	18	61	f	Hong K'	23	73	s	N York	9	48	s
Beirut	12	54	f	Innsbr'k	15	59	f	Nairobi	27	81	f
Belgrade	15	59	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Naples	18	64	f
Berlin	8	43	c	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	16	61	s
Bermuda	17	63	c	Jo'burg	x			Oslo	3	37	s
Biarritz	20	68	s	Karachi	x			Paris	19	66	s
Bordx	17	63	f	L Angels	18	64	s	Peking	10	50	f
Brussels	8	46	c	L Palmas	22	72	f	Perth	25	77	s
Budapst	9	48	f	Le Touet	14	57	f	Prague	9	48	c
Cairo	13	55	r	Lisbon	14	57	f	Reykjavik	-2	28	c
Cape Tn	x			Locarno	x			Rhodes	14	57	s
Ch church	x			Luxembg	14	57	s	Rio de J	32	90	s
Chicago	15	59	r	Luxor	34	75	s	Riyadh	25	77	f
Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	16	61	f	Rome	15	59	f
Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	22	72	s	S Frisco	14	57	s
Sao Paulo	28	82	s	Salzburg	15	59	s
Santiago	28	82	s	Seoul	5	41	f
Sing'por	31	88	t
St'kholm	4	39	s
Strasb'rg	15	59	s
Sydney	22	72	f
Tangier	21	70	f
Tel Aviv	10	50	r
Tenerife	25	73	f
Tokyo	10	50	f
Toronto	1	34	c
Tunis	21	70	s
Valencia	17	63	c
Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	10	50	r
Warsaw	4	39	c
Wash'ton	13	55	f
Wel'ngton	x		
Zurich	19	66	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. x = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high J will sink southeastwards across the British Isles and decline in pressure. Low H will drift northeast and fill. Low L will edge northwards and deepen a little



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:50	6.5	6:08	6.3	Leith	7:05	4.6	7:40	4.4
Aberdeen	5:39	3.5	6:11	3.4	Liverpool	3:14	9.0	3:43	7.7
Avonmouth	11:07	10.8	11:20	10.5	Lowestoft	1:43	2.1	2:00	2.0
Belfast	3:38	3.2	4:10	3.0	Margate	4:17	4.2	4:36	4.0
Cardiff	11:07	9.8	11:18	9.7	Milford Haven	10:32	5.6	10:49	5.5
Devonport	9:35	4.5	9:53	4.5	Newquay	9:33	5.2	10:01	5.1
Dover	3:15	5.9	3:48	5.8	Oban	9:48	3.0	9:55	3.0
Dublin (N Wall)	3:58	3.4	4:28	3.3	Penzance	9:00	4.5	9:27	4.5
Falmouth	9:41	4.0	10:15	4.1	Portland	10:29	1.4	10:37	1.4
Greenock	4:35	3.3	5:08	3.0	Portsmouth	3:22	4.1	3:56	4.0
Harwich	3:50	3.5	4:09	3.4	Shoreham	3:12	5.2	3:50	5.1
Holyhead	2:24	4.7	2:58	4.4	Southampton	2:51	3.9	3:17	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	10:19	6.2	10:51	5.9	Swinness	10:31	7.7	10:47	7.6
Ilfracombe	10:12	7.5	10:30	7.9	Tees	8:14	4.4	8:43	4.3
King's Lynn	10:43	5.3	11:19	4.9	Walton-on-Naze	3:43	3.8	4:00	3.6

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Sunday: Highest day temp: St Mawgan, Cornwall, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Valley, Anglesey, 0.32in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Hebrides, 9.5hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.
For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

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